Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-127
Tuesday
2 July 1991

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Algeria

Party Calls For Respect for Constitution

LD3006034991 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] The National Party for Solidarity and Development [PNSD] has expressed its regret over the break of dialogue between the concerned parties. The PNSD demands vigilance from Algeria to understand the political vision and control events with wisdom. It also calls for respecting the curfew that is protecting the safety and dignity of the citizens, as Algeria is experiencing a crisis of multiple ideologies. To get out of the crisis, we must be mobilized to restore the security and stability of the country. These are dear to every citizen, male and female. To obtain power, democratic methods must be applied, leaving no opportunity for the forces hiding in wait to tamper with national security. This includes the group movements unaware of the grave consequences for Algeria. To avoid deviation in any region, one principle must be upheld and one method must be followed: the necessity of respecting the constitution, which is the highest law of the state and guarantees the state of law in Algeria.

Islamic Movement Calls For Dialogue

LD3006090591 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] In the situation currently experienced by Algeria, a statement issued by the Islamic Nahda Movement states that at a time when the dispute between the Islamic Salvation Front and the government seems to have followed a peaceful path for settlement and understanding, we are surprised at the horrifying developments that have aroused astonishment and disappointment. The measures adopted open wide doors for evil and affect political rights and public freedoms in a way that may doom the experience to failure. It is feared that this will be exploited by ideological and historical enemies inside and outside the country, to drown the country in a maelstrom of problems that will destroy its economical structure, territorial integrity, and ideological and liguistic unity.

The movement calls for a general and open dialogue between the political forces in the country on the causes of the crisis and the factors for its solution. Out of the Islamic Nahda Movement's zeal for sparing bloodshed and realizing the general good, it will continue its efforts to contain the crisis.

Hamas Statement Calls For End to Conflict

LD3006193791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] The Movement of Islamic Society, Hamas, which is led by Cheikh Mahfoud Nahnah, issued Statement No. 6 today following the tense situation in our country. The most important points of the statement are outlined by Slimani Chenine, who is in charge of the Hamas Secretariat:

[Begin Chenine recording] First, so it remains a protector of security, the Army should not go beyond its powers and should not put itself at the service of politics or political parties.

Second, the leadership of the Islamic Front for Salvation should courageously, as some of its leaders have done, disclaim association with the armed groups and the elements leading terrorism, violence, and disturbances to remove the justification for the state of siege.

Third, Hamas calls on the parties and prominent figures to set up a national committee to compel the government to put an end to the conflict, restore freedoms, and define the dates of the legislative and presidential elections.

Fourth, democrats should act according to Islam, and Islamists should act on the basis of democracy.

Fifth, Hamas calls on the Algerian people to thank God Almighty for getting out of the situation where there was only one party and reaching a multiparty system, as well as for achieving the fundamental freedoms that we consider the first step toward the Islamic solution and the Islamic state.

Sixth, Hamas calls on the president of the Republic to comply with the request of the Algerian Muslim masses, after he has relinquished the leadership of the National Liberation Front.

Seventh, work for sacrifice for the sake of Algeria and the service of its people and not for the sake of a false gain. Hamas calls also for the need to become acquainted with payments, the budget, and the real debts so that every party assumes its responsibility out of fear of the real downfall. [end recording]

Opposition Leader Blames Government for Crisis

LD3007222991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] This afternoon, at the headquarters of the Journalists and Artists Club in the national radio building, a news conference was held by Kasdi Merbah, leader of MAJD [Movement for Justice and Development]. He blamed the the regime for the tense situation in the country.

Mr. Kasdi Merbah demanded early presidential elections prior to the legislative elections. He also put forward other proposals to overcome the current crisis, including the setting up of a national reconciliation committee. Asked about this by correspondent Chehida Khalfaoui, he had this to say:

[Begin recording] [Merbah] We are having talks about cooperation within a reconciliation committee, a national reconciliation committee in which all parties will be present—and also patriotic personalities, and

even patriotic organizations—and why not—the head of the government, the speaker of the National People's Assembly, and the chairman of the Constitutional Council so that we can consult among ourselves. There will be an exchange of ideas and views and if there are any solutions that can be reached and which are satisfactory to all they can be proposed, for example, to the president of the Republic or contacts could be made with the president so that a solution which will satisfy everyone will be implemented.

At present there is no form of consultation. In our view the present regime, especially the president of the Republic and the new head of government, should change the work pattern. They should not continue to impose. For example, the president of the Republic imposed the election law, the constituency law, the date of the election; he imposed the state of siege, changed the date of the elections, and changed the head of the government without consulting anybody. He should come back to consultation because he no longer has a social base in the country, the National Liberation Front [FLN] no longer has a majority, and consequently, if the president wishes to increase the chances of coming out of the crisis, there should be consultations and dialogue. If there is no consultation and dialogue and a framework within which all concerned parties can consult, such as the national reconciliation committee that we have proposed, the crisis will be aggravated and will not be solved.

[Khalafaoui] Mr. Merbah, do you think that the realization of security and the return of calm and stability to the country depends on the return of the Army to their barracks and on lifting the state of siege, as your party demands?

[Merbah] No. The return of security depends first of all on the dialogue with everyone and especially with the concerned party today. We would say that if they wish security to return quickly and the soldiers to go back in their barracks, there should be a dialogue with the concerned party. This is the first siege. However, if there is no comprehensive national solution to the crisis, we could fall into another crisis within three months. This is our view. Consequently, this crisis is circumstantial. However, it should be solved. We should resolve the national crisis which is a political crisis first, and then it is an economic and social crisis.

[Khalfaoui] What is your comment on Mr. Abassi Madani's remarks that the state of siege must be lifted or else he will call for a jihad?

[Merbah] In our view, jihad cannot be declared between Muslims. This is the first thing. Second, if he has views regarding the state of siege we think it is possible to have channels for contacts with the present regime, or the present government should contact him so they can talk to find a solution to the state of siege. It should not be a test of strength because the price of this test of strength will be paid by the young people—and sometimes by the capital, Algiers. We are against it because great numbers of youths died during the liberation war and also paid the price in October. We do not want our youths to die. On the contrary we want them to live in good conditions. [end recording]

Veterans Organization Backs Army, Government

LD3006215191 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Statement issued by the National Secretariat of the Veterans Organization on 30 June; place not given]

[Text] He National Secretariat of the Veterans Organization, after considering the dangerous situation through which the country is passing, and given the extraordinary political crisis that, God forbid, could lead to a general explosion threatening the peace and security of the country, national sovereignty, and the achievements that were made with blood and sweat, at its 30 June emergency meeting:

1. Stresses the need for action to maintain national unity and bring back the respect of the Algerian state and its presence in the daily lives of the nation and the citizen through the imposition of the law.

2. Insistently calls for the return of security, the preservation of social order, the avoidance of violence, respect for the rules of democracy and the methods of dialogue, which should be characterized by decency and responsibility.

3. Condemns all excesses of all types from any source.

4. Rejects the flawed propositions that are being fed by regional impulses and religious extremism with the aim of breaking the unity of the people and shattering the ranks for the sake of private and temporary purposes.

5. Considers the intervention of the National People's Army as sufficient for bringing back security and stability to the citizens and allowing the country to avoid catastrophes and slides of incalculable consequences.

6. Urges the National People's Army, the offspring of the National Liberation Army, to preserve its lofty national traditions of protecting the homeland, the nation, and the democratic process in an atmosphere of security and stability.

7. Calls on all the parties, bodies, and social organizations to sincerely declare their stances, put an end to their silence and positively participate in the return of security and assurance to the country and the citizens.

The organization declares its support for the efforts being made by the transitional government to bring back calm, clear the air, and pave the way for the holding of honest and fair legislative elections.

That was the statement of the National Secretariat of the Veterans Organization.

Ministry Criticizes Threat From Organization

LD0107023291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Following the statement issued by the organization calling itself the Organization for Combatting the Tyrants in Algeria, which was received by the Algerian news agency today, the Ministry of Culture and Communications has stated that the tone of this statement leaves no doubt about the premeditated motives of the issuers of the statement to maintain and continue the chaos. No state worthy of the name can permit this. Moreover, statements such as this are addressed to the conscience of the citizens in this country, whose foremost concern is to work for the return of the normal state of order and security.

The issuers of this statement appear to be moved by invisible forces on which we do not have any detailed information, the Ministry of Culture and Communications' statement says. It adds: There is not one political demand that could justify the resort to methods such as these, which are provocative and constitute a clear challenge to the authority of the state and a threat to stability in the country.

The statement concludes by saying that while the country is proceeding along a democratic path, facilitating the circumstances to help guarantee the holding of free and open presidential and legislative elections, this statement should be treated with all the caution that is warranted by its nature. The statement of the Ministry of Culture and Communications then ends.

Security Forces Open Fire in Constantine

LD0107110291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] If the atmosphere is normal now in the capital and other regions of the country, Constantine seems to have spent an unusual night, as Rabi Daas, our correspondent there, reports. We received this dispatch from Constantine at 0900 this morning.

[Daas] Constantine has been completely calm since the declaration of the state of seige, and no breach of security has been recorded, either by day or by night. All of a sudden, however, the situation changed last night. Security forces had to intervene to fire at some groups trying to disturb the calm atmosphere in the city. These groups went out on to the streets shouting slogans about an Islamic state.

It should be noted that sporadic gunfire can still be heard and a cautious calm still prevails in the various areas of the city. Security forces have stepped up surveillance on the main roads leading up to the city. For our part, we will continue to observe the situation and keep you informed of developments.

Tension Still Present

LD0107131191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] Constantine is calm again, although tension still remains. Our colleague Rabi Daas reports from Constantine now.

[Daas] Yes, the acts of riot experienced by the city of Constantine at dawn and this morning were confined to certain areas only, namely Oued el-Had and Ziadia, and did not go beyond the limits of the two quarters. These acts consisted of the erection of barricades by a group of Islamic Salvation Front supporters, who also burned tires. This caused tension in the general situation in Constantine. The security forces intervened and fired in the air. They were also able to remove the barricades and arrest suspect elements. According to reliable sources, these events did not leave any victims.

The situation has now started to return to normal in Constantine and the security forces are watching over the restoration of order and calm.

Hamas Urges Army To Stay Out of Politics

LD0107142791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] The Hamas movement [Movement of Islamic Society] led by Cheikh Nahnah issued today a new statement following yesterday's statement in which it called on the Army to remain separate from politics and to maintain security only. Hamas demanded that the Islamic Front for Salvation, FIS, disown the groups that perpetrate acts of violence and terrorism.

In the new statement of HAMAS released today, Cheikh Nahnah's party calls on the Algerians to be aware of the campaigns of provocation and gradual involvement, which seek to trap our society in religious and national sedition, and not to follow the slogans that do not serve Islam at present or in the future and that will not ensure security or stability.

People's National Assembly in Closed Session

LD0107141191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] Following yesterday's closed session the People's National Assembly resumes today its proceedings in a closed session to debate the situation in the country before the official conclusion of the spring session tomorrow. Here is a dispatch on the proceedings from my colleague, Mohamed Haloub:

After the closed session held yesterday by the People's National Assembly, it was expected according to press reports that the proceedings would be resumed this morning in an open session. However, at 1130 it was decided to hold the proceedings in a closed session also.

According to Abdelaziz Belkhadem, speaker of the People's National Assembly, these two closed sessions were to debate the situation in the country following the recent developments, that is, the resignation of the government, the imposition of the state of siege, and the formation of transitional government.

It is likely that an extraordinary session will be held on 3 July to approve the program of Sid Ahmed Ghozali's government after it has been submitted to the Council of Ministers.

Four Killed, 15 Injured in Overnight Clashes

LD0107143491 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] The military authorities have announced in a communique that the disturbances which occurred last night and this morning in some parts of the country, including the capital, resulted in four dead, including a policeman, and 15 injured; 700 people were arrested. In Algiers one person died and several others were injured during clashes which occurred in the Badjarrah and La Montagne districts between the security forces and demonstrators who had violated the curfew.

In Constantine, clashes between the security forces and Islamic Salvation Front supporters led to one dead in the ranks of the security forces and six injured, including a foreigner whose nationality is still unknown.

The communique also indicated that one of the persons who committed a hideous crime against a member of the security forces in Lakhdaria on 25 June has been arrested.

People's Assembly Continues Closed Session

LD0107162591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] The National People's Assembly is currently holding a closed session before the conclusion of its spring session today, Monday, in the evening.

According to information from the offices of the Assembly, during this closed session the deputies will elect the Assembly's bureau and deputy speakers, and will also discuss some internal issues concerning the Assembly.

According to statements by some deputies, it has been decided that the National People's Assembly will hold this coming Wednesday and Thursday an extraordinary session to discuss the program of Mr. Ghozali's government and ratify it.

It is noteworthy that yesterday the National People's Assembly resumed its spring session, which remained open since the ratification of the two laws of elections and dividing the constituencies last May.

President Benjedid Chairs Cabinet Meeting

LD0107173291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] The Algerian Council of Ministers met today under the chairmanship of President Chadli Bendjedid. The government presented a report on his government's activities since its formation and the general policy of its program which will be presented to the National People's Assembly in compliance with Articles 75 and 76 of the Constitution.

The Council of Ministers also listened to the defense minister discuss the latest measures adopted within the framework of the state of siege which was imposed according to the Constitution and the laws of the Republic.

Further on Cabinet Meeting

LD0107213391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] The cabinet met today under the chairmanship of President Chadli Bendjedid. During the meeting the prime minister presented a report on the government's activities since its formation. In addition, each minister reported on his sector and prepared a statement on general policy that is scheduled for presentation to the National People's Assembly in accordance with Articles 75 and 76 of the Constitution.

These activities were chiefly focused, on the one hand, on the need to give priority to the state's authority to ensure the citizen's security and the functioning of the institutions, and on the other hand on the organizing of a dialogue with a view to establishing it.

In his intervention, the prime minister pointed to the extraordinary nature of the task entrusted to the government, which is to make available the necessary conditions and guarantees for preparing and holding the legislative elections—the first of their kind in the context of pluralism—in a way that will satisfy and assure all of the citizens and the political parties, as well as the other bodies representing the population. In this regard, the prime minister noted that valuable time has been devoted in the government's insistent efforts toward some political leaders whose party had become embroiled in a deviation amounting to a very dangerous threat to security, stability, and national unity.

The prime minister recalled that the National People's Army, which had been resorted to within the framework of the Constitution, is merely performing the tasks entrusted to it in the service of the homeland, albeit with courage, maturity, and at the cost of many sacrifices that deserve the appreciation of the homeland.

The cabinet also heard the intervention of the minister of national defense concerning the recent measures taken within the context of the state of siege and drawn up in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of the

Republic. Within the framework of implementing the presidential decree on the state of siege and its practical clauses, the military authority has taken a series of measures aimed at putting an end to the conspiracy against the security of the state. In this respect, the cabinet calls on citizens to remain calm and confident. It also affirms its determination to bring back security and to ensure the return of normalcy as soon as possible.

In the economic and social sphere, the prime minister stressed the need for consolidating the process of economic reform in a way that would simultaneously lead to greater economic efficiency and an increased concern for the social repercussions of this process. In this respect, the prime minister will endeavor to inform all citizens and businessmen tht he will seek their effective participation, through dialogue, discussion, and consultation in a process that, after all, concerns all sectors of society.

In his intervention during the discussion, the head of state praised the National People's Army, which is currently carrying out a difficult task with courage, dedication, and full respect for the law, for the sake of preserving the Republic's institutions and safeguarding the security and property of the citizens. The president of the Republic also reaffirmed his determination to continue with the democratic process until it is completed at the level of all institutions. In this respect, he stressed that ultimately the final decision is with the Algerian people. The president of the Republic added that he does not spare any effort to make available all the conditions that will allow the Algerian people to make a free choice.

For his part, the economy minister reported the World Bank's agreement to give Algeria a loan to be devoted to the cleansing and restructuring of public institutions and the financial sector.

In conclusion, the cabinet endorsed the reorganization of the body which guarantees contribution funds for the authorities.

Situation 'Normal' in Districts

LD0107192591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Report by Nacera Bouzid]

[Text] Life is normal in the districts of Algiers, particularly in Kouba, Hussein Dey, el-Anasser, 1 May Square, Martyrs Square, and Bab-el-Oued. Shops were open and a large number of citizen were strolling in the streets of those districts. Some of them were doing their shopping. Cafes were open and full of patrons, particularly in cafes situated in Bab-el-Oued district. Traffic was normal in all the streets of the aforementioned districts, except Belcourt district [location of Islamic Salvation Front headquarters], where we witnessed the heavy presence of security forces and light presence of pedestrians. Traffic was virtually nonexistent. A large number of shops were closed in Belcourt, although it was barely 1730.

'Arafat Arrives in Algiers 1 Jul

LD0107194391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, arrived in Algiers this evening. He was greeted upon arrival at Houari Boumedienne International Airport by Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, minister of foreign affairs, and by Abu-al-'Izz, ambassador of the State of Palestine in Algiers.

Youths in Ech-Chelf Block Roads, Pelt Police

LD0107200491 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] We have just received a report from Ech-Chelf Wilaya . It seems that the situation in this wilaya has deteriorated. Our radio correspondent has details:

[Unidentified correspondent] This morning, for the first time since the declaration of the state of siege, a group of youths between 15 and 20 years of age in the es-Salam district, formerly Buq'at Sahnoun, of the wilaya of Ech-Chelf, placed rocks and tires on national route No. 11 leading to (Tanjat). The demonstrators threw stones at the security forces when the latter intervened to remove the obstacles. For their part, the security forces used tear gas to disperse the youths.

The citizens of Ech-Chelf were awoken last night by loudspeakers broadcasting a message that urged them to wage jihad. This happened after it had been announced that the slogan of the Islamic municipality had been removed.

Supporters of the Islamic Salvation Front had gathered in the Great Mosque, prompted the security forces to surround it and expel the occupants. The Great Mosque and the administrative center of Ech-Chelf municipality were closed today.

According to eyewitnesses, the police district also experienced similar events.

In conclusion, we note the return of relative calm to the area this evening.

Curfew Violations, Clashes in Districts Noted

LD0107222191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] It has been learned from sources close to the military authority in charge of administering the state of siege that, during the past 24 hours, several arrests, gatherings and violations of the curfew have been registered in several districts of the country's wilayas.

In the wilaya of Algiers, some elements violated the curfew at 2230 last night and put up barricades in the streets of some popular districts, especially the districts of Bourouba, El Harrach, Belcourt, and Hussein Dey.

In El Harrach and in the municipality of Bourouba, a gathering of about 600 people took place. This included several juveniles who damaged public lamp posts, leaving the residents of the area in total darkness. The same source said that the driver of an Audi 80 vehicle was wounded at midnight in the (Kalitous) area after he had refused to stop at a security checkpoint.

In Algiers on the night of 30 June - 1 July, the death of one civilian and the injuring of seven persons have been registered. The injured included three military men working for restoring public order. Also, in addition to the arrest of 16 persons last Sunday, 68 persons were arrested and brought before justice today.

In the wilaya of M'sila, within the framework of restoring public order, we register the death of two persons and the wounding of a member of the gendarmerie. The security forces also intervened in (El M'diya) to disperse a gathering of about 2,000 persons who wanted to occupy public areas at 2330 last night.

The security forces also intervened in Ech-Chelf to disperse a gathering of nearly 100 persons near the mosque.

Gatherings have also taken place in the suburbs of Deksi and Ziadia, and also in Larbi Ben M'hidi and Didouche Mourad Streets in the wilaya of Constantine, a matter which led the security forces to intervene in order to restore order. These operations left six persons wounded, including two military men, one of whom died of his injuries. The same sources also note that a foreign national was among the injured civilians.

Reports point out that the operations of the security forces during the past 24 hours have resulted in the arrest and detention of approximately 800 persons throughout the country.

A short while ago an APS dispatch said that the security forces had managed to control the situation in the district of Bourouba, which last night, Sunday, and early this afternoon witnessed clashes between groups of youths from the district and security forces, which used tear gas to disperse them.

Traffic this evening on the road linking El Harrach and Constantine bridge has returned to normal after the police removed barricades of rocks and burning tires.

Paper on Islamic 'Extremist', Iranian Relationship

LD0107211791 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] The paper ESSALAM, published July 1, in its editorial called Peace Greetings wrote that Tehran's strange positions on the Islamic unrest in Algeria confirm a reality to which official and unofficial circles have been turning a blind eye in the name of Islamic brotherhood. We mean, the editorial says, the suspicious relationship between Iran and the extremist Islamic trend in our country.

The paper ESSALAM further says in its editorial: It is no coincidence that the ordinary citizen in Algeria smells the odor of Shiites and Shiism in this trend that has begun to form an odd spectacle in our streets, and a behavior different from what we have been accustomed to seeing from our people for a long time.

The situation in Algeria today, ESSALAM says editorially, cannot be compared to the situation prevailing in Iran during the rule of the Shah. If the Khomeyni revolution was due to an excess of pressure and repression, the movement of Cheikh Abassi [Madani, Islamic Salvation Front, FIS leader] feeds more on excess of tolerance and freedom.

The paper ESSALAM further says: The experience of the Algerian revolution is richer and more mature than that of Khomeyni, and the proof is that the Algerian rebels managed, despite their sharp differences, to avoid civil war, whereas Khomeyni and his followers fell directly into it.

Paper Criticizes Iranian Leaders' Remarks

LD0107130791 Algiers APS in English 1145 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] Algiers 01/07/91 (APS)—Declarations on the internal situation in Algeria made by two Iranian high officials, the Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i and 'Ali Akbar Velayati, are severely criticized by the daily "EL MOUDJAHID". In a commentary entitled "Indecence" the daily writes "Iran or after all the current governors are in fact far from being a reference in any case to set up themselves as a moral authority and be an authentic image of Islam, revolution and oppressed people's defenders".

While specifying that Algeria is above disorder, it is too noble to be affected by novice revolutionists caught in the act of historical dephasing, the paper noted as an answer to the statements of the Iranian official according to whom "the cry of Allah Akbar (God is Great) launched by Algerian people is a lesson learnt from Iranian Moslem and revolutionary people".

The commentator recalls that Algeria, the only Arab country that achieved its independence by the force of fighting losing thus one million and a half martyrs, is also the only Arab country to have adopted a just and [word indistinct] position when Iran was isolated from the Islamic world during the Iraq-Iran war.

Envoy: Iran Not Interfering in Internal Affairs

LD0107125391 Tehran IRNA in English 1132 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] Algiers, July 1, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador to Algeria Javed Qorbanoghlu met with an Algerian Foreign Ministry official here Sunday [30 June] and informed him of Tehran's viewpoints on the situation in Algeria.

He told IRNA after the meeting that he had informed the Algerian official of the latest statement made by the Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the recent developments in Algeria.

Velayati in an interview Saturday expressed regret over the current situation in Algeria, hoping that the process of democratization of Algeria will go ahead smoothly and without violence. He also stressed that Iran had no intention of interfering in Algeria's internal affairs and that the Muslim people of Algeria themselves should decide the future of their country.

During the meeting the Iranian ambassador also expressed dissatisfaction with the attitude of the Algerian press towards Iran and noted that such attitudes will not solve any issue but instead damage Tehran-Algiers ties.

The ALGERIAN NEWS AGENCY which reported the news of the meeting claimed that the Iranian ambassador had been asked to give explanations on the statements made by certain Iranian authorities on the internal situation in Algeria.

Qorbanoghlu had also met with Algerian Foreign Minister Brahimi on Saturday.

Egypt

Al-Qadhdhafi Arrives for Talks With Mubarak

NC0207111791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1102 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jul (MENA)—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, arrived in Cairo this afternoon from Khartoum. President Mubarak welcomed al-Qadhdhafi at Cairo airport.

Also at hand to welcome the Libyan leader were the foreign, transport, information, and local government ministers; the heads of the Armed Forces major services; Mustafa al-Shadhili, head of the Egyptian follow-up office in Libya; and Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm, general coordinator of Egyptian-Libyan relations.

President Mubarak accompanied Brother Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to Sarsy al-Qubbah station. From there the two leaders will take the subway to Mubarak Station in Ramses Square, where they will take a train to Alexandria.

The two leaders are expected to hold talks over a working luncheon in the train to Alexandria.

Interior Minister, Delegation Leave for Syria

NC0107184091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1825 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jul (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa left Cairo for Damascus this evening at the head of a delegation of top-level police officials paying a four-day official visit to Syria. During his visit, the interior minister will meet with Syrian officials to discuss ways to strengthen cooperation between the two fraternal countries' Interior Ministries in the fields of police work and security.

The delegation accompanying the interior minister consists of Major General Hilmi al-Faqi, director of the public security service; Maj. Gen. Habib Ibrahim al-'Adili, director of the state security investigations department; Maj. Gen. Muhammad Sadiq Barakat, director of the drug enforcement administration; Maj. Gen. Shukri Ghunaymah, director of the passport, immigration, and citizenship department; and Maj. Gen. Jalal al-Shami, director of the Interior Ministry's public relations department.

Petroleum Minister Leaves for Paris Conference

NC3006153091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1258 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, left Cairo for Paris this afternoon at the head of the Egyptian delegation to the first conference of oil producing and consuming countries. The conference, which is being sponsored by France and Venezuela, will open in the French capital tomorrow.

In a predeparture statement, Dr. al-Banbi said that this two-day conference, the first of its kind, will discuss ways of stabilizing the international oil market and promoting cooperation between producers and consumers. [passage omitted]

Djibouti President Arrives, Meets With Mubarak

NC2906105491 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] President Husni Mubarak held a round of talks with Djibouti President Hassan Gouled immediately after he arrived at Cairo airport today. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa also attended the meeting.

The president of Djibouti arrived this morning and was received at the airport by President Mubarak, Musa, and Djibouti's ambassador to Cairo.

Concludes Meetings, Departs

NC2906132791 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Djibouti's President Hassan Gouled left Cairo this afternoon for home after a round of talks with President Husni Mubarak. During the talks—which dealt with bilateral ties, cooperation, the situation in the Horn of Africa, and Middle East developments—Mubarak and Gouled had a working lunch. [passage omitted]

Musa on Egyptian Aims in Arab Peace Process

JN0207085691 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0750 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Muscat, 2 Jul (WAKH)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed that the time is now appropriate for closing Arab ranks proceeding from Arab and international legitimacy and setting Arab relations on the right track.

In an interview published today by the Omani magazine AL-NAHDAH, the Egyptian minister called for bolstering joint Arab action on the basis of mutual respect and the charters of the Arab League and United Nations.

Regarding the developments of the Palestine question and efforts to find a just and comprehensive solution to it, Mr. Musa said: The Palestine question is now going through an important stage called the stage of preparing for the peace process. This means the Palestine question will be placed on the negotiating table and viewed from all aspects, including the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the other legitimate rights contained in the principles of Security Council Resolution 242 and the mutual and balanced rights on whose basis negotiations should take place.

He affirmed the need for Palestinian presence in the peace negotiations which must take place on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338. He said: Egypt is now trying to activate the peace process toward a process of negotiations based on firm principles, including Resolutions 242 and 338, the principles of the UN Charter, and the acknowledged principles of international law.

Government Welcomes South Africa Nuclear Decision

NC3006101391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa gave a press statement today welcoming South Africa's declaration of its intention to join the nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that this step will enhance the treaty's effectiveness, because it becomes stronger when new countries join it, particularly those which have nuclear programs. He added that the move will have positive effects on the security and stability of the South Africa region.

In his statement, the foreign minister expressed the hope that all of Egypt's neighbors in Africa and the Middle East will join this treaty, particularly those that have nuclear facilities free from checks and international guarantees of the International Atomic Energy Agency, such as Israel.

Mubarak's Policy on U.S., Israel Decried

NC2806203091 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Jun 91 p 3

[Column by 'Adil Husayn]

[Excerpts] I was with struggler Ibrahim Shukri among the masses in al-Mahallah on Tuesday. On that same day, President Mubarak was visiting the amirs of Kuwait and Bahrain. I do not claim that I know what happened during the visit. But what is the importance of details now? Political matters are no longer a secret, and this is enough.

It has become known that the United States has completed its occupation and control of the Gulf Cooperation Council states. In the military field (otherwise called security arrangements), relations have been formulated in secret agreements about which the Egyptian state knows nothing (except the question of the exclusion of any direct role for our Armed Forces). It is known, however, that depots for U.S. weapons will be established in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia similar to the ones that will be established in Israel. A U.S. military command also will be established in Bahrain and will coordinate with the U.S. command located in Israel.

In the economic field, it is known that U.S. instructions are that Gulf funds should not be used in any serious attempt to rescue the Egyptian economy. The Egyptian state has thus been left to fall prey to the plots by the IMF, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Paris Club.

In this tragic atmosphere, what is the use of details about the visit to Kuwait and Bahrain? Details mean nothing new and important has happened. No wonder, then, that (after the visit) statements began to stress that our relations with these states are based on principles and not interests!

But if there was nothing new, and if the intention was to hear a few good words about the role of the Egyptian Army or to receive a handful of dollars, why did the president pay a personal visit to these two states? After the expulsion of the Egyptian Army and after the insults directed at our people, did the Gulf rulers find it too much to come to Egypt to appear courteous and kind? Why does President Mubarak accept this continuous plan to humiliate Egypt? [passage omitted]

In any case, while we were amid the masses in al-Mahallah, President Mubarak was speaking to the journalists accompanying him. He said that despite their suffering, the people have proven their correct evaluation of the situation. Someone commented that the president's remarks prove he knows well the feelings of the masses. This is a comment only a hypocrite can make. This reminds me of another statement by the president, when he said that he is ready to meet with

Shamir but cannot meet with 'Arafat out of consideration for the Egyptian public's opinion on the Palestinian president. What public opinion is this, Mr. President, which welcomes Shamir and rejects 'Arafat? Is it public opinion in the United States and Israel, or public opinion in Egypt?! If the talk is about the Egyptian people as we know them, the information which reaches the president is always fabricated. Our Muslim Arab people believe the shoes of any Arab leader are cleaner than those of the Zionist leader and butcher. Our Muslim Arab people reject the president's policy of attaching himself to the U.S.-Zionist alliance. They also reject the policy of economic destruction pursued by the United States and the international agencies. [passage omitted]

Eighty-Four Egyptians Denied Entry Into Sudan

NC0207071991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0627 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 2 Jul (MENA)—[Passage omitted] On its first page today, AL-AHRAM reports that 84 Egyptians returned from Sudan yesterday, having been prevented from entering that country and mistreated, allegedly for security reasons. The 84 people are all employees of the Cairo University branch in Khartoum.

Sudan

Reportage on Al-Qadhdhafi Visit to Country

Arrives, Makes Statement

LD2906135191 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Excerpts] The brother leader of the revolution arrived in Khartoum this morning in order to share in the celebrations of the Arab people in fraternal Sudan of the second anniversay of the revolution of national salvation. [passage omitted]

The brother leader of the revolution made a statement to correspondents in Khartoum airport, in which he said: I am pleased to arrive in our country Sudan today and meet now, with great pleasure, my brother 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Commander Council, my brothers the members of the Command Council, and my brothers the sons of the fraternal Sudanese people. [passage omitted]

I come also to congratulate our brothers in Sudan on this anniversary which is dear to us all, and to consult on this occasion with regard to the completion of unity between the two countries, and also the unity of the Arab nation, bringing its day closer as well as liberating its territories. I also come to talk about the very important events which took place and are still taking place in the Horn of Africa and the Arab region.

More on Arrival

EA2906180991 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Khartoum, 29 June (SUNA)—This afternoon, the internationalist leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, and Col. Abu Bakr Yunis, member of the historic leadership of the 1 September Revolution, arrived in the country to share with the Sudanese people their celebrations marking the second anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi expressed his happiness to be visiting Sudan and said in a press statement that during the visit, there would be a discussion of measures concerning the implementation of unity between the two countries as well as the agreements concluded at the first meeting of the Ministerial Authority for Integration Between Libya and Sudan, held recently in the town of Sirte in the Jamahiriyah. His excellency added that the talks would also cover the situation in the Horn of Africa and the current Arab situation.

On arrival at the airport, the Libyan leader was received by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], and a number of members of the RCC and the Council of Ministers.

Al-Bashir, Al-Qadhdhafi Hold Meeting

LD2906135691 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution and Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Basir, chairman of the revolution Command Council of fraternal Sudan, this morning held a meeting at the Republican Palace in Khartoum. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Leaders

LD2906223691 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution's visit to fraternal Sudan was characterized by extensive political activities. He had a meeting this evening at his residence in Khartoum with General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council of Sudan, and with Chadian President Idriss Deby. The meeting was also joined by brother 'Abd al-'Aziz Abd al-Ghani, member of the Presidential Council of the Republic of Yemen.

Attends Committee Meeting

LD0107131691 Tripoli JANA in English 0841 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] Khartoum, Nassir [July] 1, Jamahiriyah News Agency—The president of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council General 'Umar Hassan al-Bashir and

the leader of the great al-Fateh revolution Colonel Muammar al-Qadhdhafi yesterday afternoon attended the first meeting of the Supreme Committee for Complementarity between Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Sudan. The meeting was attended by Col Abu Bakir Jabir Yunis, General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, the deputy of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council, General al-Tijani Adam Tahir, member of the Revolutionary Command Council, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Economic Planning, the Sudanese minister for finance and economy, the secretary of the People's Higher Committee for External Investments.

The Supreme Committee reviewed what was achieved in the meetins of the Higher Ministerial Committee for Complementarity which held its meetings in Sirt on 18-19th instant and the results achieved as well as the decisions taken regarding support for the General Secretariat of Complementarity, the completion and activation of its organisational structures, supporting the Arab Libyan Sudanese holding company to execute the complementarity projects in agricultural, economic and industrial fields.

The committee reviewed the accords on free movement, work, residence, the right to own property, the accords of commercial exchange, avoiding double taxation.

These accords constitute a step towards complementarity and the realisation of internal union between Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan.

Addresses Mass Rally

EA0207061091 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council [RCC] chairman, and the internationalist leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, at noon today participated in the demolition of the Kawbar public prison, which has been a symbol of subjugation and oppression throughout the history of the country. More than 2,000 prisoners were released in accordance with the decree of the RCC chairman.

Major General Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the RCC and interior minister, speaking at the beginning of the mammoth mass rally on this occasion, said: The Kawbar prison, which we are here to demolish today, was an instrument of tyranny and repression in the hand of the colonizer. It witnessed long (?lines) of the sons of distinguished heroes, such as the hero Ali 'Abd-al-Latif and leader Isma'il al-Azhari. [passage omitted]

The mass rally was also addressed by the internationalist leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who congratulated Sudan and its people on behalf of the brothers in the Jamahiriyah on the second anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution. His excellency said that the National Salvation Revolution was a true watershed toward the transformation of Sudan's history. He added that it was not a repetition of the partisan or fascist military attempts, whose failure was proven and which delayed Sudan's great march. He saluted the Arab youth in Sudan, who are advancing on the path of freedom, Arab unity, and liberation, pointing out that the revolution decided to free Sudan from the vicious circle in which it had been trapped and to work on establishing people's rule. He clarified that the problems inherited by the revolution resulted from the former factionalist partisan and military practices, stressing that Sudan was a [words indistinct] which could not be subjected to fanaticism, and no one can divide its sons.

He praised the decision of the revolution to hand over power to the sons of the people, clarifying that the path of the masses will prevail in the end. He added that Sudan wrested its freedom and will within the framework of the directives of the National Salvation Revolution and its uplifting of the masses, and what has emerged from the people's conference and people's committees has provided an example to the Arab nation.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi said that the destruction of Kawbar prison does not represent a material value, but a progressive value of civilization representing emancipation and freedom, and that the decision of Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir to destroy the Kawbar prison is a boundless covenant.

Al-Bashir, Chad's Deby Sign Joint Communique

EA0107195191 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] Khartoum, 1 July (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and of the Council of Ministers, and the Chadian president, Idriss Deby, yesterday signed the joint communique issued by the two countries at the end of President Deby's visit to the country to participate in the celebrations marking the second anniversary of Sudan's National Salvation Revolution.

Professor 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, the minister of culture and information and acting foreign minister, has told SUNA that the joint communique issued by Sudan and Chad, signed by Presidents Al-Bashir and Deby yesterday, comprises a follow-up to the work of the joint committees and the agreements between the two countries. The communique also stresses the activation of agreements reached during earlier meetings in the interests of the peoples of the two fraternal countries.

Meanwhile, Staff Colonel Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammad Khayr, the minister of presidential affairs, has stressed that the minutes of the Sudanese-Chadian meetings represent a strong springboard for consolidating relations between the two fraternal countries when the time for implementing the contents of the [word indistinct] comes. Col. Tayyib went on to tell SUNA that the joint communique signed by Lt. Gen. al-Bashir and President

Deby was the result of the meetings of the two ministerial committees of the two fraternal countries, which followed up the work of the Sudanese-Chadian ministerial committee, which met last February.

His excellency said that it was in the context of following up these issues that the importance of the rectification [takhlis] of the position of [words indistinct] following in the form of an agenda embracing the agreements reached and matters agreed upon earlier. He added that agenda was the basis for the implementation of those agreements.

His excellency the minister of presidential affairs told SUNA that the essence of the (?agenda) emphasized that Sudanese-Chadian relations are greater than [words indistinct] stronger relations and the great hopes of the peoples of the two countries.

Chadian President Deby, who left the country last night, stressed that his visit to the country would serve to promote the deep relations between the two countries. He said: Our participation in the celebrations of Sudan's revolution anniversary confirms our keenness to [words indistinct] the historic relations in December [word indistinct] gave great impetus to the historic relations between the two countries. He said: We can congratulate ourselves on the steps we have jointly taken to strengthen our relations since 1 December last year. Referring to what the joint ministerial committee has achieved, he said it had met within two months of the Patriotic Salvation Movement's accession to power in Chad, which is what caused us to attach great importance to developing relations between our two countries toward wider horizons.

Western Sahara

Morocco, Polisario Front Agree to Cease-Fire

LD2806174191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Morocco and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia and Rio de Oro [Polisario] have agreed to a cease-fire in Western Sahara as from 6 September. This follows UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's proposal, in anticipation of a referendum allowing the Saharan people to exercise their right to self-determination, scheduled to take place before the end of this year.

Kuwait

'House-to-House' Weapon Searches Expected

NC0107135291 Paris AFP in English 1332 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Report by Michel Adler]

[Excerpt] Kuwait City, July 1 (AFP)—Police said Monday that people were turning in weapons "every day" but that house-to-house searches for arms by security forces would still be necessary even after a deadline on Tuesday.

"People are very understanding," said police officer Radi al-Husayni at al-'Adliyah station, one of five in the capital where weapons are being surrendered.

But he said private arms caches would still remain after the deadline fell Tuesday at midnight for an end to an amnesty against prosecution for possessing weapons.

Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah said Sunday in a newspaper interview that Kuwait was ready to launch a large-scale campaign to search for weapons.

"We are determined to collect the weapons and other war material left behind by the occupation forces. We will not allow anyone to violate the law under any circumstances," he told the United Arab Emirates newspaper AL-ITTIHAD.

Interior Ministry officials hinted however Monday that the deadline might be extended, as it was already from June 17 until Tuesday.

The director of public relations at the Interior Ministry, Police Colonel Fahd al-Mukhlid, said there would in any case be no searches before the deadline.

He added: "Who knows, maybe they will extend it."

He said the problem is a big one and that all nationalities in Kuwait, including Palestinians, had weapons.

"This is because there were so many weapons on the street the second and third day after liberation," the colonel said.

Iraqi troops fleeing the emirate as a U.S.-led coalition entered to liberate Kuwait in February left behind thousands of Kalashnikov assault rifles, as well as mortars, recoilless rifles and other heavy weapons.

The U.S.-led intervention ended a seven-month-long occupation.

The government wants to guarantee that all the weapons are removed amid a growing crime rate since the war. [passage omitted]

Amir Holds Talks With Syrian Minister

JN0107065591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah today received Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade. Dr. al-'Imadi conveyed President Hafiz al-Asad's greetings and congratulations to his highness the amir of Kuwait and the brotherly Kuwaiti people on the liberation and restoration of legitimacy. The amir of Kuwait asked Dr. al-'Imadi to convey his thanks to President Hafiz al-Asad for his greetings and congratulations, and hailed the role played by Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad in supporting the Kuwaiti cause.

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, received Dr. al-'Imadi this afternoon. Shaykh Sa'd thanked President Hafiz al-Asad for what he had done for the sake of relations between the two sisterly countries in all fields.

The talks between the Syrian side headed by Dr. Muhammad al- 'Imadi and the Kuwaiti side headed by Trade and Industry Minister 'Abdallah al-Jarallah began in Kuwait this morning. They dealt with bilateral cooperation in the economic, commercial, and investment fields and the possibility of developing them. The two sides agreed to set up a permanent trade center for Syrian products and a center for selling Syrian fruits and vegetables in Kuwait. It was also agreed to set up an exhibition for syrian products in Kuwait.

Dr. al-'Imadi also conferred with 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Saqr, chairman of the Kuwaiti Chamber of Commerce and Industry on cooperation between the economic establishments in the two sisterly countries and the means to encourage and develop bilateral trade.

Yemen

Ex-President's Death Sentence To Be Abrogated

NC0107204691 Paris AFP in English 1926 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] Sanaa, July 1 (AFP)—The Yemeni Government plans to abrogate a death sentence passed four years ago against former president Ali Nasir Muhammad and five of his close aides, the official AL-MITHAQ newspaper reported Monday.

It said the decision would be announced within days.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad was the president of the former South Yemen until he was driven out of the country following bloody clashes in January 1986 between his partisans and rivals within the Yemeni Socialist Party.

Three years later he announced his resignation from politics to "facilitate the unification of the two Yemens" - which were merged in May 1990.

Saddam Criticizes Continuing Blockade

JN3006200391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1754 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has said that the Iraqi people no longer stand for only themselves, but that, in terms of their principles, values, and the virtuous values they are seeking, they represent the entire nation.

While receiving a delegation of al-Muthanna Governorate citizens, dignitaries, department heads and members of the local councils representing all the cities of the governorate as well as its rural areas, the president added: When I look into the eyes of the Iraqis, I ask myself: What is it that truly represents them? Then, along with the comrades in the leadership, I take the position that befits them.

The president said: Thank God that we are all right. You are all like Saddam Husayn, and Saddam Husayn is everywhere, and the enemies must know this.

His excellency added: When the envious ones approached the door of Iraq, they saw that there are men who defend Iraq's door and its interests. They also saw that the roots of these men extend to the entire depth of the Arab nation, not just for Iraq. These men have upheld the banner of dignity, freedom, and legitimate rights. That is why they have poured down their malice on you with all the lava of treachery, bombardment, and destruction that you saw.

He added: They came to undermine your morale and dignity and the faith in your hearts. They wanted to deprive you of the future, and not only the present. They came for this purpose, but they only chose to hit factories.

The president added: The enemies tried desperately in the second chapter—a chapter prepared and drawn up as an integral part of the aggression and not as an appendix to it—to incite agents and mercenaries against you.

The president addressed the attendees: The banner of Iraq has remained high, its mast upheld by you and your stands, and the hands, consciences, and hearts of good people. The banner of Iraq will always rise higher and higher, and the great Iraqi people will remain great, day after day.

The president added: The men of Iraq are not small; neither is Iraq. It is true that we are 18 million people, but we are part of a great nation. I do not wish to see the Iraqis multiply to become as many as 30 million, because I think their present numbers are sufficient to uphold justice and take noble positions that defend great principles.

His excellency added: The injustice done to you will come to an end when you appear as one arm, one mastermind, and one conscience. Then, the enemies will say that it seems that there is no door or window to that can be penetrated, and they will deal with you respectably on the basis of mutual interests that please God and international law.

President Saddam Husayn wondered about the reasons for the continuation of the economic blockade against Iraq and its people. He said: Why has the blockade been imposed for more than one year? Nothing is allowed to enter Iraq or to come out of it. Kuwait has returned to what it was, so why has the blockade continued if they are not against the Iraqi people?

His excellency added: The Iraqis are stronger than all conspiracies. Iraq is prospering by your presence and the presence of good people. With God's help, we will show them our way of construction. God willing, our people will rank first in construction among all nations.

He added: If they think that we know nothing except how to fight and that we are unfamiliar with construction, we will prove the opposite to them. They will see with their own eyes that we are pioneers of construction and unique, unparalleled builders. We are people who like construction and economic prosperity.

Reportage on Visit of IAEA, UN Delegation

No Progress in Talks Announced

NC0107170291 Paris AFP in English 1624 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, July 1 (AFP)—U.N. delegates failed to make progress after a round of talks here Monday aimed at removing obstacles international experts have faced while trying to visit Iraqi nuclear facilities, a top official said.

"We have no progress to announce," International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] Secretary General Hans Blix said in a brief statement at the Rashid Hotel here.

"We are not certain of meeting the prime minister," Sa'dun Hammadi, said Mr. Blix, who is accompanying Rolph Ekeus, the head of a United Nations Security Council commission on eliminating Iraq's nuclear and chemical arms capability.

When it arrived here Sunday on a mission to make Iraq comply with U.N. resolutions calling for the elimination of that capability, the delegation said that it expected to meet with Mr. Hammadi on Monday.

Mr. Blix made little comment about the nearly two-hour meeting with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, which he said he "would reserve for the Security Council."

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) monitored in Cyprus quoted Mr. 'Aziz as saying during the meeting that "Iraq in the past had shown the highest degree of cooperation" with the U.N. commission.

The delegation met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir Sunday and returned to their hotel without commenting on developments, saying only that the meeting was long and serious. INA said Mr. Khudayyir attended Monday's talks.

IAEA experts in Iraq had reported government attempts to conceal material which could be used to construct nuclear arms. The mission's spokesman David Kay notified the United Nations of the Iraqi refusal to admit the team to a nuclear site on June 23 and June 25.

Mr. Kay expressed his conviction at a press conference Sunday that Iraq used the religious holiday of 'Id al-Adha as a pretext to deny the team access to the site and remove a large quantity of nuclear materials.

He also said Iraqi soldiers on Friday fired shots over the experts' heads from a distance of 30 meters (100 feet) as they discovered a convoy of up to 100 uncovered trucks.

The soldiers "acted without orders," he said.

On Sunday evening he gave details of events that were filmed Friday by the experts, but said it was unfortunate that there was no film of the shooting incident. A copy of the film had been sent to U.N. Headquarters in New York.

He told journalists that the convoy included "between 80 and 100 trucks loaded with material identified by the experts as isotope separators."

Mr. Kay also said an Iraqi soldier stopped the vehicles carrying the U.N. experts and held his revolver at the driver's head, demanding the video camera used to film the incident.

"We refused," said Mr. Kay, who had not disclosed details of this incident at earlier press conferences.

Washington responded to the events by hinting Saturday at a possible military strike to destroy the nuclear facilities.

The Iraqi press Monday slammed what it called U.S. threats of war, saying Iraqis were willing to sacrifice themselves for their country under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, who Friday ordered all officials to fully cooperate with the U.N. missions in Iraq.

Two disarmament experts Yashushi Akashi and Hans Moulander are also on the U.N. delegation.

Meanwhile, another group of U.N. experts charged with documenting Iraqi ballistic missiles that must be destroyed arrived here overnight Sunday. The group said it visited missile launching sites in the Baghdad region Monday.

Tariq 'Aziz Receives Delegation

JN0107114991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Jul (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz today received Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the special committee the UN Security Council dispatched to Iraq.

The deputy prime minister stressed to the mission that in the past, Iraq has showed maximum cooperation with the UN representatives regarding the accomplishment of the tasks assigned to them in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

He noted that President Saddam Husayn has ordered all the competent agencies to facilitate accomplishment of the UN representatives' tasks in accordance with Iraq's commitments to the UN Security Council resolutions.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the practical means and formulas to accomplish the UN representative's tasks.

Ahmad Husayn, minister of foreign affairs, and the UN mission's members Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and Yasushi Akashi, UN under secretary general for disarmament affairs, attended the meeting.

Foreign Minister Meets Group

JN0107194291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1922 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Jul (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn received here tonight the UN delegation headed by Ambassador Rolph Ekeus, executive chairman of the special committee.

They discussed means of cooperation with the United Nations, which Iraq and its government have underscored. (?Good) progress was made toward laying down future programs for cooperation between the two sides to implement Security Council Resolution 687.

The delegation comprised Hans Blix, director of the International Atomic Energy Agency; Yashushi Akashi, UN under secretary for disarmament affairs; and a number of officials.

Tariq 'Aziz Confers With Team

JN0207110591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1034 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Jul (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz today received Rolph Ekeus, head of the special committee sent to Iraq by the Security Council.

The meeting was attended by Defense Minister Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan and Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn.

Members of the UN team comprising Hans Blix, director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and Yashushi Akashi, UN under secretary for disarmament affairs, also attended.

Turkish Daily Views Progress in Kurdish Summit

NC2906153691 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 27 Jun 91 p 9

[Fettah Yalar and Seyhmus Cakan report: "The Kurdish Leaders Reach the Stage of Agreement"]

[Excerpts] Saklava, (MILLIYET NEWS AGENCY)—The summit meeting of the Kurdish political party leaders in Saklava, northern Iraq, is continuing. The officials of the National Front of Kurdistan, who are attending the summit, are deliberating on the proposals they will convey to the Iraqi Government. A Kurdish official has said that an identity of views has been reached on nearly all the proposals and that a draft has nearly been completed. It has been learned the final decision will be made during a meeting which will also be attended by Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK]. [passage omitted]

Dr. Fuat, who is the second in charge of PUK and Jalal Talabani's assistant and who is a participant of the summit meeting, has said that an identity of views has been established on the matters that were discussed during the sessions that have been held thus far and that serious problems do not exist. He recalled that the Kurds in northern Iraq waged an armed struggle during the past 30 years, that is since 1960, but were not the side which started the war. Welcoming the recognition of the Kurdish people's struggle for existence by the entire world, Dr. Fuat asserted: "We have been waging this struggle for many years. However, we were never the first to take up arms. We were forced to react to heavy oppression and pressure. Our youths, who are 30 years old at the present time, were born against the background of the sound of arms. Firearms have become an inseparable part of us and of our children. War has become a way of life. This is not something to be desired. Henceforth, we want to live in peace. We expect the Iraqi officials to be sincere. We do not want the agreements to be concluded to remain only on paper. As in the past, we shall not be the side which will violate the agreements to be reached. We have learned many lessons from past experiences. A number of agreements were concluded in the past. However, the central government in Baghdad always violated them. It prevented them from being put into effect. We hope that the agreement we shall reach at the present time will be maintained on the basis of mutual respect and sincerity."

Meanwhile, Pirot, who represents the Democratic Party of Kurdistan in Europe, said that the Kurds want peace. He stressed that the Kurdish leaders want their people to live in peace and security. Pirot noted: "The summit will adopt the best decision in the Kurdish people's interest. I hope that the Iraqi officials will agree with the contents of the decision."

Talabani-Barzani Talks Noted

NC2906115691 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 27 Jun 91 p 9

[Seyhmus Cakan report: "A Cautious Approach by Jalal Talabani"]

[Text] Shaqlawah, Northern Iraq, (MILLIYET NEWS AGENCY)—The anxiously awaited meeting between Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK] and Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], has taken place in Saklava, a summer resort town in northern Iraq. The leaders of the two largest Kurdish organizations met privately for two and a half hours and later attended a summit meeting of the leaders of the other Kurdish political parties and organizations.

The summit issued a brief joint communique which said that the DPK and PUK leaders agreed in principle on the draft agreement that will be submitted to the Iraqi Administration. Jalal Talabani, however, did not seem to agree with Mas'ud Barzani's enthusiastic statement that "an agreement has been reached with the Iraqi Administration on every point." In a separate statement, Jalal Talabani said that they have been unable to agree that they have reached an agreement with Saddam Husayn's regime which will be binding on all the Kurdish people. He noted that the Kurds and the Iraqi Administration can reach an agreement only after certain problems are resolved related to the establishment of a unitary state in Iraq and the joint use of Karkuk city and Iraqi oil.

Mas'ud Barzani, speaking after the meeting with Jalal Talabani, expressed optimism, saying that they "considered Saddam Husayn the leader of Iraq."

Jalal Talabani remained in Turkey to hold high level contacts after attending the Socialist International meetings in Istanbul. When he returned to northern Iraq with his wife, Hero Talabani, he was met by Mas'ud Barzani and a group of Kurdish peshmergas in the (Basirma) area, close to the Turkish border. The two leaders embraced one other for a long period of time and later traveled to Shaqlawah, meeting again in the Media Hotel. Barzani and Talabani deliberated on the draft agreement to be submitted to the Iraqi Administration for approximately two and a half hours. Contrary to Barzani's statement, Jalal Talabani indicated that a text or a protocol agreement ready for signing does not yet exist. He asserted:

"We both have problems. We must have the views of even ordinary Kurds on the agreement, and that is the objective of our meeting here. We are democratic forces that will always draw strength from democracy. From

this point of view, the talks we are going to hold with Saddam Husayn's regime in Baghdad will be of historic importance.

"We will travel to Baghdad and reconsider all the problems, including the question of autonomy. We cannot get together with the Ba'th Party and share its policies. We support the view that all the minorities's rights must be recognized and will make no concessions on it. We discussed this with Barzani and reached an agreement in principle."

Talabani said that they want the refugees in Turkey and Iran to return to their homes as soon as possible. He noted that they also want the devastated Kurdish towns to be reconstructed. Replying to a question on President Turgut Ozal's perception of the problem, Jalal Talabani said: "You must ask him that question. He can give you a better reply."

After he met with Talabani, Mas'ud Barzani reiterated that all disputed matters have been resolved and an agreement has been reached with the Iraqi Administration. Noting that he agreed with Talabani in principle and that there is no difference of opinion between them, Barzani said that he would rather not discuss the details of their talks.

After their private talks, both Barzani and Talabani attended a meeting of the high level representatives of eight Kurdish parties and organizations. A brief joint communique was issued at the end of this meeting, which was described as a "Kurdish summit" and was closed to the press. The joint communique said in one sentence that all the parties shared identical views.

Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani are expected to visit Baghdad for talks with Saddam Husayn and the other officials in Iraq within the next few days.

Kurdish Rejection of Iraqi Proposal Noted

NC0107141691 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 30 Jun 91 p 4

[Text] (MILLIYET)—The Kurds have described the conditions put forward by the Iraqi Government for an "agreement on autonomy" as "unacceptable" and disclosed that they will hold talks with Saddam Husayn once again.

In a disclosure after their summit meeting in Shaqlawah, northern Iraq, yesterday, the Kurdish leaders claimed that the land the Iraqi Government has proposed as an autonomous region for the Kurds is not "large enough" and that "the other conditions are unacceptable." They also said that they have decided once again to hold talks with Saddam Husayn. Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], asserted the following: "We shall inform the Iraqi officials that their conditions are unacceptable."

In accordance with the decision they adopted yesterday, the leaders and representatives of eight Kurdish organizations will meet again today to decide on their final proposal to Baghdad. Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, will travel to Baghdad to convey the proposal to Saddam Husayn during the current week.

"Karkuk Cannot Be Excluded"

Mas'ud Barzani disclosed after yesterday's summit that the Kurdish Front will not agree to the exclusion of Karkuk from the autonomous region. Meanwhile, Barahan Sali, a PUK spokesman, said that an agreement that will be reached on the basis of Baghdad's conditions will endanger the security of the Kurdish people. Sali asserted: "If we accept the Ba'th Party as the only authority, then the agreement we shall conclude will be worthless from the point of view of our people's security."

The Kurdish Front described the condition that the "Kurds support the Ba'th Party against internal and external enemies in return for an autonomous region" as "unacceptable."

Further on Ongoing Talks With Kurdistan Front

Talks Said on Verge of Conclusion

JN0107075991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0705 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Jul (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has said that the ongoing talks in the Shaqlawah resort among the Kurdistan Front parties are on the verge of conclusion. According to available information, the paper says the parties that are meeting in Shaqlawah have approached support for the agreement reached with an Iraqi Government delegation after a dialogue that lasted more than two weeks.

Citing Muhsin Daz'il, Mas'ud Barzani's personal representative, AL-THAWRAH says there is no disagreement among the Kurdistan Front leadership regarding the draft agreement. He added that some amendments will be presented to the government delegation in order to reach a final agreement in the near future.

The paper adds that the dialogue in Baghdad with the Kurdish parties' delegation lasted eight sessions. Jalal Talabani led the delegation of these parties in four sessions, which resulted in preliminary agreement on deepening the autonomy experiment and establishing firm bases for national unity that will embrace the Arabs and Kurds in their one Iraqi homeland.

Mas'ud Barzani, secretary general of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, led the delegation of the Kurdish parties in the other four sessions, which resulted in reaching a comprehensive agreement on the issues discussed in the dialogue, particularly the draft Iraqi constitution.

The paper says the dialogue between the government delegation, which was led by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, and the Kurdish parties' delegation, has witnessed a series of sideline bilateral meetings to crystallize the ideas related to the agreement regarding the final formulas of joint action which aims to lay firm and entrenched bases for the unified Iraqi national action in the future stage in a way that will reinforce the principle of the supremacy of law, party pluralism, and the freedom of the press in accordance with what President Saddam Husayn has called for and what was approved by the leadership before and after the aggression.

The paper notes that President Saddam Husayn has received the Kurdish parties' delegation on two occasions: the first in the presence of Jalal Talabani, and the second in the presence of Mas'ud Barzani, who told journalists in the northern part of the homeland a few days ago that Iraq will have only one president and one state.

The paper adds that the Kurdish parties' delegation is still in Baghdad awaiting the return of Barzani and Talabani to sign the final formula of the agreement.

Barzani Says Accord 'Still Imminent'

NC0107152791 Paris AFP in English 1512 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Report by Ragip Duran]

[Text] Shaqlawah, Iraq, July 1 (AFP) - A key Kurdish rebel leader said Monday that an agreement with the Iraqi Government was still imminent, despite differences among the leaders of the Kurdistan Front.

"We negotiated for 40 days in Baghdad with the Iraqi Government and we made some progress regarding the normalization of the situation in Kurdistan and democratization in the entire country," Masyud Barzani, president of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, told Agence France-Presse.

Mr. Barzani, whose group is a key component of the seven-party Front, stressed that he had not signed "an accord with Baghdad before informing and asking for the definitive agreement of the other front leaders."

The leaders of the Front have met daily for four days in Shaqlawah, a small Kurdish city outside the so-called allied security zone about 45 kilometers (26 miles) from Irbil and 400 kilometers (240 miles) from Baghdad.

Mr. Barzani said that a Kurdish delegation would probably visit Baghdad sometime this week to resume talks with Iraqi officials.

Recalling that they "were at war for almost 20 years with the central government," the rebel leader stressed the "importance of resolving problems through peaceful methods."

Mr. Barzani said he wanted to "strengthen national unity in Iraq."

But officials of Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) as well as the Kurdistan People's Party president, Sami 'Abd- al-Rahman and the head of the Iraqi Socialist Party, Mahmud 'Usman, told AFP they did not share this optimism.

They referred to "the existence of unacceptable conditions placed by Baghdad," such as the definition of democracy, the supremacy of the ruling Ba'th Party and its Arab ideology, as well as the boundaries of the Kurdish autonomous region.

Baghdad is asking the front "to put down its arms, fight against the internal and external enemies of the regime and to break all ties with the outside world," PUK representative Ahmad Bamarni said.

"There may be nuances between the different Kurdistan Front parties, but the group has decided to pursue to the end its negotiations with Baghdad for the salvation of the Kurds," Mr. Bamarni said.

According to Mr. 'Usman: "If the agreement wasn't signed until the end of July, the negotiations might fail."

All of the Front's leaders insist on the "need for political and diplomatic guarantees from the United Nations as well as military assurances" after an agreement is signed.

"Twenty years of struggle against Baghdad have taught the Front to be very careful regarding Baghdad's attitudes," they said.

Rapid Deployment Force in North Denounced

JN0107081491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0616 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has described America's efforts to form what has been called a rapid deployment force to "protect" the Iraqi Kurds from an alleged attack as a dirty American game that is aimed at giving international cover to its illegitimate military presence in northern Iraq.

In an article published today, the paper says: Facts and events prove that the U.S. Administration has for years been preoccupied with only one thing; namely Iraq, for reasons that are now known by the international political and media circles.

The paper adds: From time to time, the U.S. President comes up with a new verdict against Iraq, and the UN Security Council members have no choice but to adopt it and work in accordance with this verdict. His Secretary of State Baker is also touring the region to coordinate stands with America's Arab allies, agents, and spoiled child, Israel.

The paper notes that the latest innovation the U.S. Administration has come up with, after the failure of its

previous innovations and games, is its efforts to form what has been called a rapid deployment force to "protect" the Iraqi Kurds from alleged attack.

The paper points out that the international community knows full well that the U.S. Administration, throughout its black history that is full of crimes against humanity, and which is stained with the blood of the world's innocent people, does not adopt a plan or an issue unless it makes sure that this plan or issue will achieve its overt and covert objectives.

The paper stresses that these objectives are not at all humanitarian objectives, but suspect ones that put the interests of America and its spoiled child, "Israel", over all considerations, interests, and international norms.

The paper says: We are absolutely certain, and the international community shares us in this, that what has been called a rapid deployment force is only a dirty American game aimed at giving international cover to America's illegitimate military presence in northern Iraq to justify its flagrant interference in Iraq's domestic affairs. It is also a desperate attempt to obstruct the agreement that was reached during the negotiations currently being held between the Iraqi Government and the representatives of the Kurdish organizations and parties, which have been crowned with complete success.

Concluding its article, the paper says: Regardless of the forms of their methods and evil means, America and its allies will not be able to undermine the unity of Iraq's people, Arabs, Kurds, and minorities, especially since it is an eternal, inalienable, and irrevocable unity.

U.S. Role in UN Decisions Criticized

JN0107082291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0624 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has accused the United States of once again stirring up a storm of rancor and launching a disinformation campaign against Iraq, thus exploiting the United Nations, which has been turned into a place to issue war statements and embargoes and unjust blockade resolutions.

In an editorial today, the paper stresses that Bush, after having faced a fiasco and an abominable defeat in the aggressive war to destroy Iraq's people, civilization, and humanitarian achievements, has once again become confused, making weak pretexts and cheap and insolent justifications to resume strikes against Iraq and to continue the dirty war against its people.

The paper says: Thus, the United States has completely destroyed the United Nations' role and the tasks carried out by its competent agencies. The United Nations has become captive to the American desires, proceeding on a course that will eventually turn it into one of the small agencies of the U.S. State Department.

The paper emphasizes that Iraq's people will remain under the banner of leader Saddam Husayn, as Bush and his henchmen have known them in their aggressive fierce war, strong and cohesive in their defense of right, principles, and their country's sovereignty, and in their love for martyrdom. They will not be intimidated by the drums of the new war Bush and his myrmidons are beating. Moreover, the language of intimidation and threats to use force will not affect the Iraqis' resoluteness.

Opposition Sources Criticize Talks on Kurds

NC0107074091 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] Concerning the international media's treatment of the Kurdistan Front's negotiations with the regime, an Iraqi opposition official has denied the trashy media claim that the Iraqi and Islamic opposition will conduct a dialogue and negotiations with the ruling regime in Baghdad. The official said the ruling regime has been making confused proposals to prolong its stay in power. The regime's leader and top officials have said on several occasions that they intend to embark on a new phase and have made deceptive promises on establishing democracy and a multi-party system and ending the ruling party's control of the state administration. The official asserted that these sugarcoated promises have been made, along with several others.

Meanwhile, a military source from the committees of our popular revolution commented on the same topic, saying that the negotiations with the regime involve more propaganda than tangible fact.

Progress in Government, Kurd Talks Noted

JN0207072091 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Kurdish and Arabic 0450 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Unattributed commentary: "Democracy in Iraq, Before Anything Else, Is the Best and Unmistakable Guarantee for Our Kurdish People's Enjoyment and Exercise of Their Legitimate National Rights"]

[Text] This is for those who follow the program of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front and the political platforms of its different parties, as well as those who have followed our previous handling of the relationship between the Kurdish issue and the legitimate national rights, through the political programs aired over this radio, especially in recent days. In these programs we have touched on the progress of the ongoing talks in Baghdad between a delegation of the Kurdistan Front and the Iraqi Government in search of a way for a peaceful, just solution to the Kurdish issue, which has remained unresolved for a long time. We say that all those interested in the issue as well as those who have anything to do with it find it clear and irrefutable that the Kurdish liberation movement firmly linked a solution to the Kurdish issue to the need for a guarantee that our Kurdish people will enjoy their legitimate rights and democracy. This democracy should be spread in Iraqi national life in a drastic and irreversible manner.

This is because democracy in its broad and comprehensive meaning will promote understanding and accord among the concerned parties and will consequently solve the (?chronic) problems in Iraq. Iraq is charcterized by the existence of numerous ethnic and religious groups and also by various intellectual and political trends. This is one aspect. Another aspect is that we have the Kurdish issue and the legitimate national rights, for which our Kurdish people have struggled, using all available means, including the means of peaceful dialogue. They would have preferred peaceful dialogue to all other formulas and means, had they been given the opportunity.

We say that the issue of Kurdish national rights according to this concept, which has been confirmed by numerous events and experiences, is one of democracy in terms of nature and framework, which is the framework of the Iraqi national unity. This means that the best and unmistakable guarantee for the Kurdish people with regard to the endorsement of their rights, the guarantee of these rights, and the exercise of these rights—as will be agreed upon—is democracy which we all, Arabs, Kurds, and minorities seek for all of Iraq and at all levels. This issue has, more than anything else, been the repeated emphasis of Comrade struggler Mas'ud Barzani, head of the Kurdistan Front delegation to the Baghdad talks and leader of our Democratic Party of Kurdistan, during the interviews he gave to foreign reporters at his residence in Baghdad.

At the news conferences he held and in the press statements he made, Comrade struggler Mas'ud Barzani affirmed that democracy is the most important and greatest guarantee for our people who support and back any agreement on this basis.

Finally, an important point that should not be overlooked remains to be said; namely, there is a need for mutual trust. We believe that the two sides, through the talks that have been going on for almost two months, have now acquired this trust. This prompts the two sides, including all the Iraqi people, to voice optimism over the imminent attainment of the result desired by all in the interest of this Iraqi people, their national unity, and Arab-Kurdish brotherhood.

The information which we have received indicates that agreement has been reached on most of the points listed on the agenda of the talks held by the government and the Kurdish sides. What remains is little; it is hoped that it will be accomplished soon.

Shamir: U.S. Ties 'Firm, Secure, and Stable'

TA0107173691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] The prime minister has called on U.S. Jewry to do its best to strengthen and tighten the administration's support for Israel. Addressing the American Zionist convention in Jerusalem, Mr. Shamir emphasized that the fabric of relations between the United States and Israel is firm, secure, and stable and will remain so in the future as well, occasional differences of opinion notwithstanding. He stressed that Israel remains committed to the Camp David accords and that, together with the United States, it shares in the efforts to attain peace. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the prime minister sharply criticized the Arabs' opposition to aliyah from the Soviet Union and Ethiopia.

Rejects Immigrant Aid Linkage

TA0207042791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir made reference last night to American attempts to link loan guarantees for immigrant absorption with settlement activity in the territories. Speaking to reporters in Jerusalem after addressing the Zionist Organization of America, Shamir said the two issues were separate and distinct from one another.

[Begin Shamir recording] What we are doing now, what is our most important task—and it's a very humane task—is the absorption of the aliyah, of the masses of new immigrants who are coming from Soviet Russia, and we need all this aid of the United States for the absorption of this great immigration, for which the United States did so much. Therefore, I don't see any linkage between this great humanitarian undertaking and political differences. [end recording]

During his address, Shamir made a dramatic appeal to Soviet Jews not to delay their departure for Israel. He was talking on the background of the new Soviet passport law, which took effect yesterday and which may lead to a drop in immigration. [passage omitted]

'Political Sources' Welcome Bush Position on Aid

TA0207054191 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 2 Jul 91 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ori Nir in Washington, Moti Bassok, and news agencies]

[Excerpts] The United States does not withdrawn its objection to the establishment of new settlements in the territories, but U.S. aid to Israel should not be made contingent on Israeli concessions in this sphere, U.S. President George Bush said yesterday. [passage omitted]

Political sources in Jerusalem welcomed President Bush's address, noting that this is the first time the United States has rejected the linkage between settlements and the Israeli request for loan guarantees for the absorption of Soviet immigrants. The sources noted that the United States is thereby endorsing the Israeli position, as expressed by Prime Minister Shamir several times in the past. The sources believe that the change in the White House's position came after the President's advisers realized that both the House and the Senate support Israel's request for guarantees and oppose any linkage between that and the settlement issue. Jerusalem believes now that Israel will get the guarantees. [passage omitted]

Senior political sources in Jerusalem said yesterday that Israel welcomes the memorandum Bush received from his senior advisers, calling for abandoning any linkage between loan guarantees and settlement. Information received in Jerusalem indicates that the President's advisers decided that it would be advisable to drop the linkage after they realized that Israel's request for loan guarantees would have the support of a great majority in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. The senior White House officials reiterated their suggestion to Bush to return to the old line: an end to settlement activity in return for the termination of the Arab boycott.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 2 July, in a similar report by Rami Tal in Washington and Roni Shaqed on pages 1 and 12, adds that although "the Prime Minister's Office last night refused to comment on President Bush's remarks," "political sources in Jerusalem noted that Israel has never made a commitment to the United States to stop settlement activity. They said that Israel honors its commitments, and there is only one commitment it has made regarding Judaea and Samaria—namely, to refrain from directing immigrants to establish residence there. The sources noted that Israel does not regard settlements as an obstacle to peace."

[The report adds that "Israeli circles in Washington did not conceal their surprise at the President's remarks. They were particularly surprised by the President's statement that an Israeli promise to freeze settlement had been given 'on a certain date.' The Israeli circles claimed that the only settlement-related promise Israel had ever made was not to use U.S. aid funds for the establishment of settlements and not to direct immigrants there. 'These promises are being fully implemented,' averred the Israeli circles in Washington."]

Shamir Office Responds to Statements

TA0207072591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Excerpt] In response to the U.S. President's remarks, the Prime Minister's Office has said that Bush in fact reiterated things he has said in the past on the settlement issue. Our political correspondent Arye Golan was told: To our regret, there has been a difference of opinion between the United States and Israel on that issue for a long time, and the differences continue.

Close aides in President Bush's administration have said that Israeli supporters in Washington will find it difficult to defend the Israeli Government's positions if President Bush carries out his warning to make the details of his peace plan public. [passage omitted]

Tehiya Leaders Attack Remarks

TA0207091691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Tehiya leaders Minister Yuval Ne'eman and Deputy Minister Ge'ula Kohen sharply attacked last night's remarks by President Bush that settlements are an obstacle to peace. Minister Ne'eman told our correspondent Arye Golan that Israel upheld U.S. interests during the Gulf crisis and even absorbed Scuds, while forsaking its own security. Last night's remarks are President Bush's way of saying thanks.

Ge'ula Kohen told our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen that President Bush is blatantly lying in saying that the Israeli Government made a commitment to stop settlements. The threat that continued settlement will set off a war is like an invitation to Arab aggression, she believes.

Comparison of Settlement Expansion Plan

TA0107084791

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 1 July carries a report on page A1 by Yizhar Be'er containing a version of the Construction and Housing Ministry's multiyear plan for the expansion of settlements in Judaea and Samaria. The HA'ARETZ report has been compared with the YEDI'OT AHARONOT version published in the 28 June Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 18, revealing an additional table in the HA'ARETZ report entitled: "The Plan for the Expansion of Settlements." The last four settlements on the list are located in the Gaza Strip.

Settlement	Expansion area quoted in dunams	Housing Units
Hermesh	3,000	1,800
Sanur	1,200	2,000
Itamar	1,000	2,000
Elon More	2,000	4,000
Tapuah	1,000	500
'Imanu'el	5,000	industrial, public buildings
Dolev		1,000
Talmon	3,000	5,000
'Ofarim	6,000	neighborhoods, industrial zone
'Ofra	2,000	3,000
Shilo	3,000	5,000
Adora	3,000	4,000
'Otni'el		1,000
Nisanit		3,000
Netzarim		1,000
Neve Dequlim		4,000
Rafiah Yam		1,000

'Special' West Bank, Gaza Housing Office Affirmed

TA0207100691 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Jul 91 p 3

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[Text] The Housing Ministry has set up a special office to oversee settlement activity in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, the ministry spokesman said yesterday.

Sources said the office was established by and works directly under Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon, and its purpose is to accelerate the ministry's building efforts in the territories.

The spokesman refused to confirm or deny that the office had proposed a program to add half a million residents to settlements in the areas over several years, as has been widely reported.

The plans entail a huge expansion of existing settlements without building new ones, according to the reports.

Some 4,500 housing starts were recorded in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza in fiscal 1990, and construction of another 11,500 units is planned for this year, the spokesman said. But no plans have been finalized, he said.

The office, which is part of the ministry's Rural Development Department, has a staff of two, and began operating several weeks ago, the spokesman said.

"We have offices that oversee building in the Galilee, in the Negev, and other areas, so why shouldn't we have an office overseeing building in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza," he said.

Sharon will be guest of honor at the dedication this afternoon of a new neighborhood at Mevo Dotan, in Samaria. The ceremony is being sponsored by the ministry, the World Zionist Organization, Gush Emunim, and the Samaria Area Council.

Netanyahu on Peace Process, Hostage Issue

TA2706191191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Studio interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Shlomo Ganor and Yehezqel Ya'aqobi on the weekly "Meeting" program on 27 June—video recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; processed from the Hebrew]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Ganor] Mr. Netanyahu, let us go over to topical matters. The impression received in

the last few days is that the political process has reached a dead end. Syria has still not replied to President Bush's letter and is demanding guarantees that Israel withdraw from the Golan Heights. Is progress in the political process dependent on the Syrian answer?

[Netanyahu] That is quite clear. I think there is no better example of the real obstacles to the process than what is happening now. Israel started the process, and we were asked to respond to a few questions, but even before that, we ourselves initiated an overture to the Arabs, who always say that they are willing to come to peace talks to Israel but not alone. We said okay, all of you come together. We will hold a preliminary meeting in which all the parties see that they are not alone and then we will hold bilateral negotiations. Then we were asked to bring the Europeans, and we agreed to this also, as well as to Soviet participation. Secretary of State Baker and President Bush asked Israel several questions. Prime Minister Shamir replied to the President with a detailed and reasoned letter at once, after two or three days. In other words, Israel took steps. I would say that it clearly made concessions and gave immediate pertinent answers to the U.S. Government to move the process forward.

What have we seen from the Arab side? Nothing, I must say with sorrow and disappointment. We have witnessed either hesitation and fear, or an outright desire to stop the prcess. The fact that Syria until today—after several weeks—has still not replied to the President's letter is the most clear and obvious sign that it is the one holding up the peace process. Syria is the obstacle to peace.

[Ganor] Why does Syria not hasten to reply to the U.S. questions like Israel?

[Netanyahu] I can only assume that the desire for peace does not burn in their hearts as it does in ours.

[Ya'aqobi] Can the process be pursued without Syria, just with Jordan or Egypt, for example?

[Netanyahu] As far as Israel is concerned, this is possible. We said we are willing to sit down at the table with Jordan alone, or with Jordan and Syria together. We are open to various forums. The fact of the matter, however, is that Syria has not only declined to participate itself, but all its recent steps and declarations prove that it is also holding back and preventing other elements from joining the talks. Syria is the obstacle, Syria is the stumbling block.

[Ganor] So you are actually saying that the peace process is dead?

[Netanyahu] Why? If there is an obstacle, we must overcome it. I believe that the United States today has a great deal of influence, and the ability to recruit Western Europe and other states upon which Syria is dependent. I think that following the developments of the past two years, including the Gulf War, Syria should take a few things into account: One, it does not have superpower backing anymore, because the superpower known as the Soviet Union is not the same anymore, if it is still a superpower at all. Two, after the Gulf War, Syria should understand that waging war against Israel, and not just against Israel as became clear in the Gulf, is very dangerous. It would entail severe risks to Syria, to its army, its economy, and its capital. War today is not the same as in the past.

I know that the Syrian economy is in the dumps, and the cream of its youth is emigrating. I think that Syria's interest in avoiding war, ending the state of war, and launching a peace process is no less than Israel's. I think pressure should be put on Syria, and I believe that if the United States does this the process will not be dead at all.

[Ya'aqobi] One of the problems raised by the Syrians is the participation of the United Nations in the process, in any conference forum, or the passive participation of a UN observer. Does Israel oppose the participation of such an observer?

[Netanyahu] First of all, the Syrians demand a full UN framework for all intents and purposes. There are those who are trying to draw this down to observer status. I would like to remind you, however, that an observer does not just observe. He also collects impressions, writes things down and then reports them. To whom does that UN observer report? To the UN Security Council and General Assembly perhaps. He reports to the United Nations. What will he report? He will report whether the UN resolutions are being implemented. Those very resolutions that the Arabs claim are the basis for negotiations, all the UN resolutions. All these resolutions actually call for the termination of the State of Israel. In other words, the Arabs are using—those Arabs that are demanding UN participation and sponsorship—the United Nations as a means to avoid direct negotiations with Israel without preconditions. They are trying to create some sort of international phalanx, in the framework of the United Nations, in which Israel will face a firing squad and no Arab leader will have to take the step al-Sadat did....

[Ganor, interrupting] And Israel will not give in on this point?

[Netanyahu] We are adamant on this issue. I must say that we have made many concessions. You all know this. Even the Arabs are aware of this. Everyone knows that Israel made concessions on the matter of the regional conference and European and Soviet participation, as I already mentioned, and on other issues as well. We are unwilling, however, to show flexibility and see all the sponsors come, all the framework be prepared, while the bridegroom fails to show up. We are like a bride waiting for the bridegroom in church. We are waiting for an Arab party to show up and state that it is willing to enter direct and bilateral negotiations, and we have not seen this.

[Ya'aqobi] Is there some U.S. commitment on the matter of the United Nations that it will prevent any discussion of any subject pertaining to Israel in the General

Assembly and in the Security Council for as long as the negotiations process continues? Could this resolve the problem?

[Netanyahu] I must tell you that this proposal means that the moment the negotiations run aground the commitment is no longer valid. If you say that certain issues will not be brought before the United Nations throughout the period of negotiations, then this constitutes what I would call an incentive to the Arab side to disrupt negotiations and thus immediately be able to bring things before the Security Council. I would like to make a simple suggestion. If the Arabs are serious about holding direct negotiations with Israel, let them stop raising obstacles. Let them stop finding excuses, and stop holding back letters. Let them do exactly what al-Sadat did: get up and say that they are willing to hold peace negotiations. Al-Sadat's action resulted in peace.

[Ganor] Nevertheless, you have emphasized the U.S. role as mediator. Recent weeks have seen a worsening of U.S.-Israeli relations. Officials have been criticized on the settlement issue. Are relations between the two countries on a collision course?

[Netanyahu] I do not think we are on a collision course. That is a popular subject in the media. I do not know how many programs you have devoted to the inevitable confrontation between Israel and the United States, and not just in the last year but over the past 10 years.

[Ya'aqobi] The last week.

[Netanyahu] I can tell you that I have been in the business of Israeli-U.S. relations for nearly 10 years, ever since I arrived in Washington as Israel's envoy.

[Ganor] So give us the real picture.

[Netanyahu] I think that the real picture is totally different. We have differences of opinion over certain issues; however, I would also say that we also share great understandings on the framework of the process and how to move it forward. I do not think that anyone in Washington has any illusions regarding the rejectionism of certain elements in the Arab world, and everyone understands that no progress is possible without surmounting those Arab obstacles. [passage omitted]

[Ganor] There have been increasing reports from foreign sources about the possible release of the foreign hostages and the Israeli POW's. Mr. Deputy Foreign Minister, is the release of the POW's near?

[Netanyahu] I very much hope so. We have been making indefatigable efforts for many years. I do not think that I held one meeting in the United Nations or later as deputy foreign minister with European or UN elements without the issue coming up in one way or another. We are prepared to consider releasing Shaykh 'Ubayd and other prisoners within the framework of a step leading to the release of all our POW's and MIA's. I very much hope that this will happen soon.

[Ya'aqobi] We share your hope.

[Ganor] You cannot say anything beyond that?

[Netanyahu] I do not think I have any more to say on the matter or that it would be wise to do so. [passage omitted]

Lahd on Return of POW's

TA0107074191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] General Antoine Lahd, South Lebanese Army [SLA] commander, is willing to exchange the hundreds of Palestinian and Shiite POW's held in al-Khiyam prison, if the deal includes the SLA and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] POW's and MIA's held by the terrorists. At the same time, Gen. Lahd told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that so far, no element has officially approached him with an appeal concerning a POW exchange. All of his information comes from rumors and press reports.

Netanyahu on Iraqi Disarmament, Nuclear Power

TA0107070391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Ya'el Dan and Gay Zohar—live]

[Text] [Zohar] How does Israel view the reports concerning Iraq which, on the one hand, refer to the possibility of renewed hostilities—a possibility which we hear today has been somewhat diminished—and, on the other, as we have heard in the past few days, which claim that the nuclear threat is a lot more serious than anyone thought during the Gulf war?

[Netanyahu] I would not say that no one thought about it. We certainly were not surprised. We have never entertained illusions concerning Saddam Husayn's intentions. We have never believed his promises; hence, the 1981 operation. Today, the whole world understands just who Saddam is and what danger he represents. Naturally, Israel fully supports the U.S. efforts to bring about the complete disarmament of Iraq's nonconventional weapons.

[Dan] Do you believe Saddam Husayn's promises to cooperate, as reported this morning? Do you take them at face value?

[Netanyahu] No. I do not believe Saddam. I believe that if he faces constant and unequivocal pressure, he will eventually make the correct decisions. He must understand that the game is over, that the world will not allow this tyrant to arm himself with nuclear weapons. If he fails to understand this today, he will tomorrow.

[Zohar] The economic pressure will certainly continue; however, today we are again hearing of military pressure.

[Netanyahu] I suggest that we not go into details about the pressure. He will clearly understand what is at stake. The United States is leading this move, and we, naturally, support its efforts to disarm him of that weapon, as he himself promised. He has not yet, however, kept his word.

[Dan] We also understand that this is not that simple, because the secret uranium-producing plant, according to HA'ARETZ military expert Ze'ev Schiff, is very hard to find. We heard today that it has been found. What do you know about it?

[Netanyahu] I would rather not go into details. I believe that Saddam Husayn must understand that the leading countries of the world are not headed by fools. The United States and other countries have intelligence organizations. We know what can and should be done. Trying all kinds of evasive tricks will not help him fool the world. He has been exposed. He must understand this. He must keep his promises, not because he made them, but because the world will simply not allow Iraq to arm itself with nuclear weapons.

[Zohar] Reading the reports from Iraq, some of us in Israel are certainly asking ourselves how great the renewed threat of missile attacks on Israel is, of the resumption of war and Scud attacks, as we experienced at the beginning of the year.

[Netanyahu] This threat has significantly declined. It is clear that Iraq's ability has been seriously reduced. It has not yet been totally eliminated—we are in the midst of this process—but it certainly is not what it used to be. As for the level of the threat today, I am certain that it has diminished. The problem is more of principle: Iraq and Syria, if we regard the latter's armament drive, have both not learned the main lesson of the Gulf war. They continue to arm themselves, apparently believing that a future war is possible. I believe that this, more than anything else, is the main obstacle on the road to peace in the Middle East between us and the Arabs and among the Arabs themselves.

[Dan] This brings us back to the question we asked before: If the military option is taken, will we be involved? Has anyone considered the possibility that even in his present situation, Saddam could try something against Israel if Bush does something about Saddam's nuclear facilities? [Interview ends at this juncture as telephone link with Netanyahu is cut off]

U.S. Called On To End Iraqi Nuclear Threat

TA0107115491 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Jul 91 p 17

[Commentary by Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin: "Bush Must and Can Eliminate the Threat"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] At the end of the Gulf war, it transpired that despite the U.S. wish and effort to locate and destroy all Iraqi nonconventional weapons, Saddam Husayn was left with quite a lot of them. The U.S. effort had failed.

For example: In the official report submitted to the UN Security Council about the weapons of mass destruction left in its possession at the end of the war, the Iraqi Government admitted that 650 metric tons of toxic gas had not been hit in the U.S. raids and remained stored in warehouses. Many were surprised to hear that the Iraqis reported 50 kg of enriched uranium in their possession, which could be used to manufacture a nuclear bomb. The surprise stemmed from the fact that the Soviet Union and France, which had supplied the enriched uranium to Iraq, reported having supplied only 28 kg. The question being asked today is: Where did the Iraqis get the extra 22 kg? In their official reports, the Iraqis themselves admit to having a much larger quantity.

If we add to all this information the reports from Iraq that Baghdad's rulers prevented a UN team of experts—operating under a Security Council mandate—from visiting the research and development facilities where nonconventional weapons are manufactured and stored, it is reasonable to assume that many such sensitive facilities remain in working condition, without the knowledge of the United States and the international community.

Today the United States and the Security Council still have the levers to execute the UN Security Council resolution calling for the elimination of all Iraqi nonconventional warfare installations. The economic sanctions on Iraq remain in effect, as do the Security Council resolutions stating that if Iraq does not fulfill its commitment to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction, military force could be used to destroy Iraq's nonconventional warfare installations.

This leads to the obvious: The U.S. President's statements about "a new order in the Middle East," "a window of opportunity opened to peace," and "nonconventional arms control" will be tested primarily by the results of the U.S. actions to eliminate Iraq's nonconventional weapons. Such action could be based on the existent economic sanctions or be of a military nature.

The U.S. ability to implement the UN Security Council resolutions will determine the face of the Middle East in the days to come.

It is best for us and for the security of the State of Israel that nonconventional weapons, nuclear ones in particular, make their appearance in the Middle East later rather than sooner. We know that Iraq today has the most advanced nuclear capability of all the Arab countries. Hence, we must do our best to persuade the United States to bring about the elimination of Iraq's nuclear capability. We Israelis are entitled to expect the United States to abide by its commitment to remove this threat hovering over our heads.

Moda'i Says Restraint in Gulf War Not 'Rewarded'

TA0107150891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Report by Eyal Lavi]

[Excerpt] Israel showed restraint during the Gulf War for political reasons only, Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i said today, and expressed doubts as to whether that position had been worthwhile. Moda'i asserted that Israel's residents, who had become accustomed to seeing the State of Israel react when its citizens were attacked, now doubt the country's ability to defend them. He told a delegation of U.S. Zionists that this feeling was strengthened when Syrian President al-Asad uses money he received for participating in the coalition to buy weapons for offensive purposes.

[Begin Moda'i recording, in English] We had good grounds then to believe that when the war is over and the threat is put aside, this position that the State of Israel has taken will be taken into consideration when the time comes and—headed by the United States of America—some peace negotiations may come about. When the time comes, that Israel, shouldering the burden of such a vast wave of immigration of the Soviet Jews will come into the State of Israel, will be able to rely heavily upon economic support, humane support if you wish, from the part of the United States of America. I have a very uneasy feeling about the expectations that we had, because up to this very moment I do not see that the position taken by the State of Israel, which was key at the time, is rewarded in any way at all. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Lubrani Skeptical About Lebanese Deployment

TA0107053791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Telephone interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, by Shalom Qital and Arye Gus—live]

[Excerpt] [Qital] Good morning, Mr. Lubrani.

[Lubrani] Good morning.

[Qital] The Lebanese Army starts its deployment in south Lebanon and the Sidon area today. What does this change mean to us?

[Lubrani] So far, nothing has happened. As long as it is not clear that this deployment will be followed by the disarming of the terrorists, there is no change as far as we are concerned.

[Qital] Yes, but the Lebanese Army has started to send its troops to the area, which means a new presence.

[Lubrani] We have seen the Lebanese Army moving into areas where previously it had no foothold; however, from our point of view, nothing has changed, because the terrorists there are still armed and able to operate against us whenever they choose.

[Gus] Mr. Lubrani, can we assume that if the terrorists continue to operate from south Lebanon, they will be doing so with the Lebanese Army as their cover and perhaps with the tacit agreement of Syria?

[Lubrani] This is certainly possible. We are witnessing this in Iqlim al-Tuffah, where the Lebanese Army was deployed several weeks ago. In fact, nothing has happened there, because the terrorists and Hizballah remain in their previous locations. As far as we are concerned, the test will not be the deployment of the Lebanese Army, to which we have no objection, but the clearing of those areas of terrorists.

[Qital] What does the Lebanese Army deployment mean for the South Lebanese Army [SLA]?

[Lubrani] At this stage, it has no meaning. We have the security zone; we or, rather, the SLA is located there and guards the area against terrorists.

[Gus] What would happen if an attempt were made to limit the SLA's freedom of movement?

[Lubrani] It would take action.

[Qital] Could this whole affair not bring positive results, as the Syrians keep the areas where they are located rather quiet? Could it, therefore, be possible that the Lebanese Army, under the Syrians, will keep the peace?

[Lubrani] The Lebanese Army will only be able to maintain the peace if it manages to remove the terrorists. We do not care how this happens. We care about one thing only: There are terrorists, and they operate against the State of Israel. If the Lebanese Army spreads out and removes the terrorists, this will be a significant change for us. As long as this does not happen, there is no change.

[Qital] What should Israel do now?

[Lubrani] It should wait and see what happens.

[Qital] Nothing else?

[Lubrani] Nothing else. [passage omitted]

Lahd Conditionally Welcomes Deployment

JN0107103491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Shafiq Mansur dispatch from Marj 'Uyun, southern Lebanon; italicized passages are recorded]

[Text] General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], has welcomed the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the Sidon area on condition that

the Palestinian and Hizballah saboteur organizations are not allowed to carry out aggressive operations in the security belt area.

Responding to a question in an exclusive interview I held with him at his command headquarters in Marj 'Uyun in the security zone, Lahd said: *I welcomed the Lebanese Army when it was deployed in Iqlim al-Tuffah. I now welcome the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the South. I hope the deployment, however, will be successful in eliminating the resistence operations. I also hope that the Army will be capable of returning all displaced people to their areas and that there will be security in the southern region. I accept the deployment of the Army on this basis only. If the Army will deploy in the region to coexist with the rest of the organizations on the same land, the result will not be very good.*

On the possibility of the SLA's intervention and response to attacks by saboteurs, even if they are under the protection of the Lebanese Army, Gen. Lahd said: *Naturally if we are infiltrated and there is resistance against us, we will respond even if the Lebanese Army is present.*

I asked him about the possibility of exchanging detainees currently held in al-Khiyam detention camp under his administration. He responded by saying: *The media have talked a great deal about the exchange of prisoners. There is one essential point here; before they decide on exchanging detainees of the SLA and the IDF, whether dead or alive, they must hand them over to us and we will give them something in return. If these two conditions are not met, all other negotiations and talks are meaningless.*

Border Police Chief Discloses Undercover Units

TA2906100291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Interview with Border Police commander Meshulam 'Amit by Dalya Ya'iri and police affairs correspondent Shim'on Vilnay; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Ya'iri] Good morning.

['Amit] Good morning]

[Ya'iri] What was the Border Police's response to the disclosure of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] special units?

['Amit] I can say that the activities of the undercover units is known by people in the field. Those against whom those units operate are the first to know about them, and the reasons and considerations that led to their disclosure are acceptable to us.

[Ya'iri] Are there similar units in the Border Police?

['Amit] There are units in the Border Police that deal with similar activities.

[Ya'iri] Can you expand on that and tell us some more about those activities? Which activities are similar to those of the IDF units and which are different?

['Amit] No, I will not go into details.

[Vilnay] Up to now you have not been given the opportunity to make public those units that operate in various locations in the territories. Why is that?

['Amit] I believe that going into detail has to be considered within the overall framework and the publicity given to the operation of special units is to the point and serves the purpose at this moment. [passage omitted]

[Vilnay] Your direct contact with the Arab population has in recent years caused many casualties among the Border Police. You had 850 casualties in 1990 in fighting the intifadah, and 40 of them required hospitalization. You are in daily battle with a population that is rebelling.

['Amit] The figures you mentioned are correct, but you must remember that the Border Police this year dealt with almost 12,000 disturbances—stone throwing, violent detentions, etc. It is clear that these units are on the front line, and with the intifadah the front line is the bottle, the stone, and the burning tire. Therefore, the casualty figure you cited is an expression of the presence of those units in front-line confrontation with the intifadah over the last three years.

[Vilnay] On the other hand, 549 Arabs were wounded in the struggle against the Border Police, while there were only eight Arab fatalities.

['Amit] That figure is correct; we have it from the hospitals. The number of Arab fatalities does not include those wounded in the Temple Mount incident [8 October, 1990], to which I will not refer at the present because an investigating judge has still not made his findings public. I believe that the small number of fatalities among the local population, on the one hand, and on the other the dedicated and firm activity of the Border Police units in quelling the intifadah, as well as the large deterrent force deployed among the Arabs, show their high level of professionalism and restraint. The strict orders on opening fire are only an expression of that. [passage omitted]

Rebuked for Disclosure

TA0107085791 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Jul 91 p 2

[Report by Michael Rotem]

[Text] Police Inspector-General Ya'aqov Terner yesterday rebuked Border Police Commander Meshulam 'Amit for disclosing in a Saturday radio interview that the Border Police deploys secret units of officers disguised as Arabs in the territories and East Jerusalem.

A police spokesman said yesterday that neither Terner nor Police Minister Roni Milo knew in advance or authorized 'Amit's surprising revelation.

At the end of their meeting yesterday, 'Amit received Terner's permission to meet with Milo, the spokesman said, adding that Terner gave Milo a full report on his meeting with Amit.

Newspapers View Killings by Plainclothes Soldiers

TA2706150091

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 27 June, in a report by Michael Rotem and Dan Izenberg on page 10, writes that "a police investigation has concluded that Sergeant Major Yosi Afarseqi merely stood by while Kakh supporters attempted to assault Palestinian activist Faysal al-Husayni on June 9 near the Jerusalem police station. Afarseqi acted passively, a police spokeswoman said, and did not report the incident. He is to be formally rebuked and reposted."

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 27 June, in a report on page 3 by Roni Shaqed and David Regev, reports that "a roadside bomb exploded two nights ago near an Egged bus traveling to Neve Tzoref near Umm-Safa' in the Ramallah district. It exploded without causing any damage or casualties. A curfew was imposed on the village, and an investigation is under way to locate the squad that perpetrated the act. Recently a steep increase has been noted in the use of firearms in the territories, particularly hand grenades and homemade explosives. Security sources believe that between four and five active squads armed with firearms—including IDF [Israel Defense Forces] issue—operate in the Ramallah, Nabulus, and Hebron areas.

"Yesterday masked individuals shot Yusuf Muhammad al-Nasir (32) from Qabatiyah in northern Samaria on suspicion of collaboration. He sustained shoulder injuries and received medical treatment. Ibrahim Abu-Sharar (37), a resident of the al-Nusayrat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip was assassinated by masked men who dragged him out of his house by force."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 27 June, in a report on pages A1 and 4 by Eytan Rabin, adds: "Senior security sources expressed their view that the stabbing in Hebron of 16-year-old Yosi Tuito from Qiryat Arba' yesterday stems from the desire of extremist elements in the territories—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Islamic Jihad—to revive the intifadah, which is on the decline. They claim that such an attack shows a desire to prove that the hard core of intifadah activists is still going strong. They noted that an escalation in attacks in the territories was noticed in the last few days, mainly in the use of bombs, firearms, firebombs, and hand grenades."

'Hostile Terrorist Activity' Said Decreasing

TA2706132791 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 26 Jun 91 p 13

[Report by Rahel Zamir and Ma'yan Peleg]

[Text] A drop in disturbances in the territories has been observed since January 1990 [as published]. Following a dramatic increase that month, the number of incidents has dropped sharply to 30,000 since the beginning of 1991. In terms of hostile terrorist activity, including shootings, hand grenades, bombs, Molotov cocktails, and attacks with cold steel weapons, the volume of activity has gone down to approximately 600 incidents since the beginning of the year.

Some 16,211 suits have been filed with the military court in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza in the past work year, which lasted from 1 April 1990 to 31 March 1991: 9,587 in Judaea and Samaria, and the remaining 6,624 in Gaza. Of these, 8,741 involved violations of the public order, 3,672 involved hostile terrorist activity, and 3,798 involved other felonies.

The number of closed cases stands at 12,509, of which 8,875 are in Judaea and Samaria and 3,634 in Gaza. Some 664 defendants were acquitted in the past work year. The total amount of fines imposed on the defendants stands at 23,348,760 new Israeli shekels [approximately $10 million].

Defense Ministry on Recruiting Christian Arabs

TA3006183491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Excerpts] A new plan drafted by the Defense Ministry would eventually lead to compulsory military service by Israel's 107,000 Christian Arabs. Muslim Arab leaders oppose the plan, but officials say the proposal to allow Christians to enter the Army comes at the request of the Christians themselves. Ya'aqov Rosenberg has the story:

Christians have served in the Israeli Army on an individual basis since the country's independence in 1948, but the Defense Ministry's plan would allow any of Israel's 107,000 Christian Arabs to join the military. Dr. Alex Bligh, the prime minister's adviser on minority affairs, says the initiative came from the Christians. [passage omitted]

Bligh says the idea is to fully integrate Christian Arabs into the Israeli establishment. Army service will give Christians the security clearance needed to enter numerous jobs in high technology and industry, both in the private and public sectors. The result could be a halt in Christian emigration: A recent survey reported that 28 percent of Christian Arabs are either already planning or considering leaving Israel for better jobs in the West.

Some local Arab leaders have expressed opposition to the plan. The head of the municipal Arab councils, Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, says Arabs should not agree to

any conscription until there is peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors. But, for their part, officials see the volunteer plan as the first plan to a conscription of the Christian, as well as the Bedouin communities.

Bank of Israel Reports Recovery After Gulf War

TA0107101191 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Jul 91 p 8

[Report by Alisa Odenheimer]

[Text] The economy has made a complete recovery from the slowdown brought on by the Gulf War, and is now operating at its pre-war level, Bank of Israel officials reported yesterday.

However, Central Bank Governor Mikha'el Bruno warned that inflation may be getting out of hand, and pointed an accusing finger squarely at the government.

According to Bruno, who yesterday issued his bi-yearly report on monetary developments, inflation in April and May was out of line with the rates recorded for the same months during previous years. During these two months, prices rose by a total of 4.1 percent.

He asked the government to make a strong effort to hold down prices under its control, including wages, and suggested that the current period of high unemployment should provide an opportunity to bring down the inflation rate.

Yesterday's upbeat findings on the state of the economy were based on large increases in activity recorded in the construction, industry, and trade sectors, as well as a considerable rise in imports, especially of production inputs and durable goods.

In addition, the rise in tax revenue collected by the government, as well as the flurry of share offerings on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, serve as indicators that the economy is back on track, officials stated.

The only dark spot in the otherwise cheerful report is the continued slump in tourism. While this sector has shown some signs of recovery, it is still suffering from the effects of the war, since many travelers plan their trips far in advance.

The positive tone of the report was reinforced by the results of the "S"—or State of the Economy—indicator for May, which was also released by the bank yesterday.

The indicator, which is based on changes in the level of retail sales, industrial production, job openings, and imports, showed an upturn in the economy during May for the third month in a row.

However, the upturn was not apparent in all of the four categories cited. While retail sales climbed sharply, job openings and imports both fell. It is unclear how production levels performed, since this figure is not officially released until one month after the others.

Agriculture Minister Ne'eman To Meet Gorbachev

TA0207090791 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 2 Jul 91 p 1

[Report by Yosi Rivlin]

[Text] Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan will meet with President Mikhail Gorbachev during his upcoming visit to the Soviet Union. In the course of the visit, Eytan will meet with additional senior figures in the Soviet establishment.

Eytan will thus be the first Israeli minister to have been officially invited to the Soviet Union and the first to meet with Gorbachev.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that 12 agriculture experts recently returned with plans to export agricultural expertise and equipment to the USSR.

King Husayn on Peace Prospects, U.S. Ties

JN0107121691 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Jul 91 pp 4,5

["Full text" of interview with King Husayn published in the "Sunday" edition of the Tokyo paper YOMIURI SHIMBUN; date not given]

[Text] Q: Your Majesty, this is the greatest honour for us to have a chance of interviewing you; and I surely believe that this occasion may bring better relations and better understanding between your country and Japan. Personally, this is my dream achieved to see Your Majesty, because last October, I had an interview with (former) President Jimmy Carter of the United States; at that time, President Carter told me King Husayn is the only person who can make peace movement in this area. "So if you have a chance, please try to see King Husayn." That was the message of President Carter, so ...

A: President Carter was a very worthy friend of ours for many years. I recall at the beginning of his presidency we had many talks and many hopes for a comprehensive peace in the region; but then, things went, of course, in a different direction; instead of the comprehensive peace at that time that we sought, we've seen one to be drawn as a partner in the peace makings. And we had some difficult times in our relations, but I take him extremely close, and I respect him very much as a man who knows the area and knows its problems and as a man who is certainly committed to the cause of peace. So we are in touch, from time to time, and I think he knows the problems probably more than many people in the world now do.

Q: Your Majesty, if I may ask you, I would like to first raise this question: We are now coming close to (the first) anniversary of the beginning of the Gulf crisis... I would like to ask Your Majesty how you estimate the chance of success for the peace processes, even though we have some negative and stubborn attitude of the parties involved.

A: I think, sir, if we look at it in the following way that there is simply no other alternative, except disaster, to the establishment of a just and durable peace in this region, then we have to assume that every effort would be made to ensure that this purpose is reached, probably soon. After all, sir, we're talking about the root-cause of instability in this entire region, probably over many years in the past.

We are talking about a continuously changing situation, that's not even static, which is affecting the human dimension, which is affecting the economy, even our feelings in such a manner, sir, that I believe we have two choices given to move to try to resolve this problem; and I think this is a chance.

We are talking of the new world and the new world order, principles would just be applied everywhere, or else, sir, we are adrift towards greater extremism, and then the problems which we might have faced in the past would be lead to, God forbid, an inevitable explosion in this region soon, a crater devastating for everybody.

This is a chance; this is the opportunity where everybody wants to do something for the rights of future generations, to live in peace, to live with human dignity, to live in a situation that they feel they can protect and to pull their energies and resources towards attaining a better future, which is very, very possible. You would say how? I really don't know, but what we have heard so far, what is suggested, we need the process to start, and start soon, and our understanding is that it should be based on the two famous Security Council resolutions, 242, 338. Resolution 242's statement spoke of exchanging land for peace, this is in fact an element in these resolutions.

However, there is a two-track approach, of course, this means that the Palestinian-Israeli dimension is addressed, and we believe that this is recognised universally that this cannot happen without the Palestinians themselves being involved, it's their problem, and it is their right to make their contribution towards peace. On the other hand, an Arab-Israeli approach, sir, these two courses will run at parallel (course), and meet at the end; and their meeting will bring also the results before the assumed Security Council, because after all, 242 and 338 end up with Security Council guarantees, and they receive the blessing of the world and the support of the world.

This is where we are at the moment, we have said here in Jordan that we are more than happy if the Palestinians choose to approach us on the idea of a joint delegation. If this is the only way that helps in someway, then we would be more than willing to look at it again—we had such an opinion almost in 1985—and then there will be a Palestinian delegation that will deal with the Palestinian-Israeli element of the problem within the context of a joint delegation, and there will be a Jordanian one to deal with the Arab aspects of the problem. The problem beyond that is not only Jordan's and Palestine's and Israel's and maybe some of the countries in the area, it is a regional problem, it's a world problem.

I'd like to say, we don't have a very clear view of how we're going to be able to provide drinking water, not over a very short space of time, for people here. I'm not only talking of Jordan, I'm talking of Jordan, of the West Bank, of the occupied territories. These are problems that are present, these are problems that can only be dealt with in the context of peace.

Continued frustration, continued denial of people of their human rights, of these in the occupied territories, or elsewhere, people even in the Arab World, is something that cannot go on continuing. For example, with the Gulf crisis, which caught us by surprise, it was a terrible shock for us all, and has not yet ended in terms of its effects. We stood for peace, sir, we did not stand for the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq, we wanted to reverse the process peacefully, we wanted a peaceful solution to

the border problems, we wanted to avoid military confrontation between those two countries, we were not for that wider confrontation which occurred, and we were concerned for the stability of region as a whole.

We were also concerned for the ecological dimension of the problem, which is now with us. But we were definitely against the occupation of territory by war, as we are over the Palestinian issue, in terms of the preamble of resolution 242 of the Security Council, being the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war, as we have been on the Cyprus issue, Falklands, and recently this problem.

Nonetheless, we have received back something like 250,000 people, some of whom have been working for the Gulf governments three generations or so. A very huge leap through Jordan. In the first place, I think they will contribute, hopefully to Jordan, because we were suffering to a degree from a brain-drain aspect in the past. But, on the other hand, they certainly will have to have their rights; this problem is going to be resolved. If an Israeli has a right to have an Israeli nationality, and the nationality of any other country, many of them do outside the region, then certainly a Palestinian has got his rights as well, throughout the region and throughout the world, so that, when you take the land mass of Jordan as the land mass of Palestine, and that you consider that you're going to put all the Jews in the world, and all the Palestinians in the world, and all the Jordanians in the world, and expect that you can have peace, you'd have, even the possibility of this happening, it's impossible. Therefore, everybody has a responsibility.

We would like the rest of the world to be with us to have this process leading to peace. We would like the moral weight of the world with us, we would like, certainly, if it is not under the United Nations auspices, in terms of that the United Nations being involved, that we have many events that will end up with the guarantees of the Security Council which are implicit in 242 and 338. I would like to see Europe involved, we would like to see everybody doing so; after all, problems that are universal, problems that affect everyone of us as the world is becoming much smaller and as a result we must work, closer than in the past.

Q: Thank you very much Your Majesty. I would like to be a little bit pessimistic about Mr. Baker's peace initiative. I think Mr. Baker worked very hard shuttling [between] many countries, and what is called the regional peace conference, sponsored by the U.S. and the USSR. But even though he worked so hard, it seems to us that now the deadlock situation has come. And at the same time, we have to point out that the Israelis are rather negatively fashioned towards Mr. Baker's appeal. But in this situation, how do you analyse first of all the Israelis' attitude for the peace plan, and is it true for us to understand that we believe it to be a deadlock?

A: Thank you. I honestly don't know, sir. I have been in Petra and made some statements. I really mean them. I expressed my readiness. If there is a peace plan, we will be there. If it is a question of taboos, I think, these ought to be removed from the scene. I don't think any Arab can claim to be more of a patriot than the people under occupation hanging on to their land, and their rights, and have been there fore years and years. So if there is a chance, then let us get together and talk and discuss matters, not only unilaterally, but I am also talking in the context of having a process that involves all the parties concerned.

Therefore, it is not a Jordanian-Israeli problem or a Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli [problem], but we are very happy that the Gulf Cooperation Council is involved in it, but hopefully to be involved in beyond what they have already suggested. It is also suggested that there is a need for an educational process. An Israeli who has lived in a fortress and with a fortress mentality has got to understand what peace offers. In the same way the Arabs have to have the same feelings, and to explore this possibilities, and how they do, and realise that what is there is something different from anything that has happened so far.

There are, therefore, many of our friends throughout the world who help us with their ideas and contributions... Secretary Baker has been here and we are in touch back there with President Bush. It may be a phase that people are now thinking about, but I suppose we will be hearing (from them) soon. To be honest, I feel that the new process cannot be covered in detail in the media. There has to be some quiet diplomacy, some work to try to do... It is going to take sometime. So we need the goodwill of all Arabs including our friends in the media in particular to encourage progress.

Q: So can I understand that what Your Majesty called quiet diplomacy is now under way?

A: No, I don't think I'm covering up anything, sir. Until now there isn't anything. I'm just talking about the future.

Q: Your Majesty, President Bush proposed to ban nuclear weapons, poisonous gas, ballistic missiles. Do you think that President Bush's proposal is a realistic one concerning the situation here in the Middle East?

A: I think that the situation in the Middle East has been the cause and the source for the need for this. We should hopefully address. I certainly hope that there will be no need in the future for weapons to be here in the region, and I think that resources could be used relatively in other advantageous areas, to create a better future for people in this region.

Q: Your Majesty, follow up on this question: Do you have any idea in what way, in what formula, this, President Bush's ideal, could be materialised?

A: I think, sir, that there has been a lot of thought about the experience of this in the rest of the world, particularly

as a way of solving political problem; and I think that they are, sadly, facing their first test now.

Q: Your Majesty, a couple of minutes ago, you mentioned the past taboos; we understand that Your Majesty made an interview with a French magazine and Israeli officials have, after your comment was published, issued to Your Majesty an invitation to visit Israel. What did you mean precisely when you responded to the journalist that past taboos should be forgotten? How will you respond to the Israeli response?

A: Sir, you are referring to what I was saying earlier; I don't believe that it is a question of individual theatrical moves. What we need is a process, a process that involves everybody. It is not a question of myself, or the member of any country, sort of to be able to create a real process. The problem is far more serious than this; it's a problem that involves Palestinians, Israelis, Syrians, Lebanese, Egyptians... But beyond that, sir, people who are in the entire region to share the future of mankind in this region; a solution that people can accept and live with. So I think it too simplistic to respond by thus, making a solution as has been made. All of us wish that there would be peace that would not affect individuals, but affect people in the entire region.

Q: Next question is concerning the future of the country of Iraq. During the Gulf war, surely, President Saddam Husayn had a very tough and difficult time, but we understand that Your Majesty, will at least, President Saddam Husayn has a relation with Your Majesty, if I may say, like a friend, if I may say, as a statesmanship, sharing memories, how do you view now the future of Iraq and the future of the president of Iraq? [sentence as published]

A: Sir, that is a question not for me to answer, but it has to be determined by the people of Iraq, and I would like to say here, again that my main concern throughout this period beyond any personal feelings towards any president or leader in the Arab World or in the world as a whole; and in this particular case, my concern was for Iraq and the people of Iraq, for their unity, for their future, for their rights, and for the prevention of the disintegration of the country and the sufferings (of the people). And I was not with the Iraqi leadership in their action in Kuwait. I was trying to reverse that, and despite the fact, sir, there is an impression that Jordan might have taken sides. I think Jordan was for peace.

We found a very strange phenomena in the world, though many of our old friends adopted the attitude that you are either with us or against us. The answer is that neither with you nor against you. But I am against war, against the destruction that can occur, against creating wounds that might cause a lot of damage, material losses, the environment to suffer, may be even beyond this area.

In my life, sir, I have passed through two similar experiences and that both have been devastating too. In 1967, one afternoon in al-'Aqaba, I heard on the radio that President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir had decided to close the Gulf of Aqabah for Israeli shipping and to put his troops in Sinai. I knew that the war was going to forthcome, and a few days later, I went to Cairo and asked what the decision was based on. I knew what the results would be. And so when the results occurred on the 5th of June 1967, and we are still suffering from the results until now.

Obviously as far as we are concerned, we were affected directly here, as well as filling our obligations on the part of the Arab League and the Arab League Charter during the events of June. Second one, sir, is this recent one. I was not involved. I did not know. If I know there was a problem, I wish we have the right to end at the Arab summit in Baghdad and Kuwait, and I sensed that the atmosphere was not a very comfortable one there. [sentence as published] And I came back and I warned something has to be done to ensure that the meeting in Jiddah succeed.

I expected this war, and I was against this brutality. I tried to reverse the process peacefully. So again, sir, in both cases there is one phenomenon which goes beyond this question of the rights of a leadership in a country to decide something that affects the people of the country. In both cases the effects, be it in 1967, or now, were far more reaching and affected us incidently in both cases, as it affected beyond the region. Well, my belief, sir, is in the future, is in trying whenever possible a national reconciliation, a dialogue amongst people as we have had in Jordan, as we produced the National Charter which was ratified a short while ago as to bear respect for human rights, and to the participation in government. There are the guarantee, sir, that demagogues are not created, and that there are checks and balances for the stability and it is comprehensive, it will be effective.

Q: Now Jordan had good relations with the United States. However, during the Gulf crisis, the bilateral relationship between Jordan and the United States was to some extent put under strain. Now, how do you describe the relation of these two nations?

A: Sir, I would like to say that the relations have always been there. Unfortunately, in the last many years, and not recently, just during this crisis, we have seen them cool, and we have seen them deteriorate, and we have seen them become far less intense. And it is something that we can't do very very much about. During the crisis, it reached the lowest possible point. But I hope, sir, that as we have built it with every nation on the basis of the feeling that we have always had that our relations with anyone in the world, the best of our friends, had to be based on mutual respect. And they have to be based on a desire to work for a better future. Be it in regard to our bilateral relations with every one in this region. And I hope that the relations are improving.

Q: So you are quite dissatisfied with the present situation?

A: I am not as satisfied as I would (like to be). But it is fair to say that the shock that has affected everybody in

this region, and I believe that there are many grey areas where people are not exactly sure what happened that involves us as well to a degree. All is going to clear up. We know where we stood and therefore we are confident in the future.

Q: Your Majesty, about some aspects of domestic policies change, we are very much impressed with the process of democratisation in your country. I think that you think this democracy is very important for the future of your country. Do you think Jordan's step will influence other countries in the Middle East?

A: I hope it will. And I believe that there are many people who are watching and I think that this is the only way possible for the future, not only for the countries of the Middle East but anywhere else since it is the only way of ensuring stability and achieving progress. And after all no human being is immortal, sir. But if you have institutions and you have power-sharing, and if you have democracy, and if you have freedom, and if you are a part of movement to seeking a better future, then that is the best guarantee for a country looking for stability and for the attainment of the greatest hopes. I am very happy indeed that it didn't (happen) in the reverse way.

Usually this is achieved as a result of struggle against people who are afraid of the masses; this is my conviction and I am very happy, indeed, I am very proud to be a Jordanian who worked for this and to open the way for it.

Q: Another decision which you took recently impressed us very much; this is the appointment of Mr. al-Masri to the prime minister position. Shall we understand that you have very important things in your mind that you took this decision? Did you have any particular purpose?

A: Yes, sir. I believe that he is relatively a young prime minister who has ahead a lot of experience and I believe that he has a good team with him and again it was exactly what the future outline of policies should be. I certainly included that in the message to the prime minister and beyond that the important thing that we should retain the best of what we can retain from our past and our tradition and what we can offer to the rest of the world. And I believe, sir, that the challenge before us is greater than it has ever been. You know people regardless of where their origins, we must work, we must put our minds together, we must put our hearts together, sir, once and for all we should make of this country an example. I hope that every member of the choice of this prime minister would work together with his team, with democracy, and with all our support and that we succeed.

Q: Your Majesty, let me ask you a last question about something related to Japan. In Japan, we at least believe that we are trying to play some important role in this area especially during and after the Gulf crisis. How do you evaluate the Japanese role played during this period?

A: I have noticed, sir, the interest in this area that we have recently sensed and we have received delegations, and we have received visits from important figures that came to the area and then went beyond us to the other parts of the area that were affected and I am (pleased) by the interest and the concern. As far as our relations are concerned, they are stronger with the passage of time and there is a lot of respect that Jordanians have for Japan and follow their example. I believe that the relation will continue to develop and include all fields and areas. We certainly welcome that very very much. As far as I am concerned, it has been a privilege that I will be always proud of the relationship between Jordan and Japan.

Q: Your Majesty, of course in your position, it is quite difficult to criticise Japan, but while we Japanese sometimes question that in economical field, we think that we are playing a small role, however, it might be that we are lacking some political role in the global village. Do you share that kind of thinking?

A: I cannot comment on the feeling of our friends in Japan. But we would certainly like to witness and see that the role increases and that it should.

Q: I would like to ask Your Majesty how you appreciate the role of PLO in the Middle East political field?

A: The PLO has been, as far as I am concerned, the Palestinian address, the address of the Palestinian people. [sentence as published] I am not talking of individuals. As far as we are concerned we have good relations with PLO and we continue to have a dialogue with them so nonetheless should be. Palestinians must be involved in resolving the Palestinian problem. Nobody can choose who the Palestinians are. The Palestinians themselves have to choose their own representatives to resolve the problem. Nobody else has the right to do otherwise. And I hope that somehow, regardless of how many difficulties there are, things will work out in a way, that Palestinians must be attracted. If you want to close a chapter, the Palestinians have to be an important element in the process of peace.

U.S. Threats Against Iraq Called 'Conspiracy'

JN3006095491 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 30 Jun 91 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "A Conspiracy To Disarm the Arabs"]

[Text] The U.S. threats of strikes against alleged Iraqi nuclear sites seem to be a prelude to a new aggression on fraternal Iraq, despite the Gulf crisis having ended. It is important to bear in mind that all UN Security Council resolutions adopted during the crisis aimed at ending it. Hence, it is impermissible for these resolutions to be taken as a pretext to torpedo Iraq's sovereignty, transgress on its installations, or empower the United States to strike it when it so wishes.

The UN Charter recognizes the full sovereignty of all its members, and gives no authority to the Security Council to violate it as long as aggression by a certain member on another is nonexistent. In light of this international

principle, it has become clear that there is no reason to threaten Iraq with strikes since it is not committing aggression against any UN member state. It also becomes clear that Israel, which continues to practice aggression against the Palestinians, Syrians, and Lebanese and occupies Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese territories, deserves to have the UN Security Council adopt measures against its nuclear and biological arsenal that support Israel's aggression against the Arabs.

The new U.S. threats against Iraq are in fact addressed to all Arabs, especially because they are accompanied with a vicious Israeli campaign against Syria, similar to that against Iraq prior to the Gulf war. This campaign now scores Syria's military power. It claims that Syria has nuclear missiles and weapons, and that peace cannot prevail in the region if this power remains intact. Thus, it becomes clear that the United States is rushing to destroy Iraq's remaining military strength, and that Israel is rushing to get rid of Syria's military power. It has not been ruled out in such a case that the United States and Israel might combine their allegations against Syria. This means that the U.S.-Israeli objective is to strike Arab military power in general in order to subjugate the Arabs and force them to capitulate. This evil conspiracy is too serious to be handled by the Arabs each in turn. The issue is not related to Iraq's remaining weapons or Syria's arsenal, but rather about disarming the Arabs. Meanwhile, Israel has the largest nuclear and biological arsenal in the region, in addition to the arsenal provided by the United States that includes the most advanced weapons.

Therefore, all Arabs are called upon to counter the conspiracy, prevent the aggression on fraternal Iraq, and prevent the destruction of Syria's military power. Under the current situation, Arabs have no choice but to close ranks with no hesitation or delay. They should adopt a unified and proud stand to ward off the danger threatening them. Only then would they be able to activate the peace process and foil the conspiracy that aims for their surrender.

Fadlallah on Bush Letter to Shamir, Israeli Talks

NC2806175891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] In his Friday sermon today, al-Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said that whoever examines U.S. President Bush's letter to Israeli Prime Minister Shamir feels that Bush is scorning all the Arabs and trying to make Israel and the entire world understand that he is committed not only to Israel's security, but also to Israel's political line and economic interests, as well as its future ambitions.

Fadlallah added: We feel danger from all the U.S. moves because the United States wants to bring about the downfall of the entire [Arab] nation.

Fadlallah indicated he has advised the Arab officials not to enter into negotiations with Israel because the results will be perilous. Fadlallah emphasized that the United States has decided that Arab and Palestinian interests will be attained only if these interests are in keeping with Israeli interests.

Dallul, FRC Delegation Discuss Army Deployment

NC3006173591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Minister Muhsin Dalllul met with a delegation representing the Fatah-the Revolutionary Council [FRC] led by Walid Khalid today to discuss the Army deployment. Walid Khalid affirmed that all the Palestinian groups support the deployment process. He said: There are no obstacles from any side now; should any emerge, they will come from the Israeli side. He added: We want to avoid friction with the Lebanese side. He indicated that the Lebanese-Palestinian dialogue will start after the deployment is completed.

Army Confronts Islamic Group, Hizballah

NC0107070991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] The 91st battalion is waiting for instructions to proceed with its deployment on the 'Ayn al-Dulb-al-Qurayyah-Jinsnaya-al-Mujaydil-Wadi-al-Laymun combat line, which is primarily a Palestinian front. Units from the 92d and 94th battalions have completed their deployment in 'Abra and al-Salihiyah east of Sidon. Units from the 92d battalion have already arrived in Jall al-Hawa and are now heading toward the 'Ayn al-Mir-Lib'a front.

The deployment began at 0500 today and the Army has taken control of Sidon from al-Awwali up to Sayniq at 0630. During the deployment, a dispute erupted between Army units and an Islamic group and Hizballah forces when they refused to vacate their barracks in 'Abra, claiming that there were no weapons in the barracks.

Citing eyewitnesses, REUTER said that a convoy of 135 tanks and armored personnel carriers have entered Sidon.

Al-Hirawi Stresses Army To End 'Anomalies'

NC0107090491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has said that there will be no retraction of any cabinet decision on the Army deployment. When he received a general Maronite council delegation, he said that the Army will respond if it confronts any barrier. He stressed that the government has decided to put an end to all anomalies on Lebanese territory, and added that it has full confidence in the Army's role as the defender of the homeland. He pointed out that the Army's unity and discipline has shown that it is ready to implement the cabinet decisions without discrimating among parties.

Al-Murr Explains Progress in Sidon Deployment

NC0107125791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 July 91

[Text] In an exclusive statement to our political correspondent on the Army deployment in the south, Defense Minister Michel al-Murr said:

[Begin recording] The fact is that the armed presence east of Sidon is not divided into two categories—an exclusively Lebanese presence in one area and an exclusively Palestinian presence in another area. There is a mixed presence for Lebanese and Palestinian armed groups. The Army began its deployment in the morning. After deploying in Sidon, it deployed on three axes, not two axes. On two axes it faced no obstruction; on the contrary, it was welcomed and the Lebanese groups helped the deployment to take place easily and quickly. On the third axis, which stretches from al-Qurayyah to Jinsnaya, there is a Palestinian presence. Up to this moment, the gunmen have not withdrawn from this axis.

Minister Dallul and Major General Nabih Farhat are present in Sidon in the home of Mustafa Sa'd, who is holding contacts with the Palestinians, in coordination with the committee formed by the cabinet. God willing, positive results will appear within an hour. Because all the deployment from the morning until now happened without hinderance, we hope to complete the day without obstacles. If the contacts produce no results, however, the cabinet decision is clear. The military authorities have been informed to deploy in all areas. The deployment will, therefore, unfold today as decided by the Cabinet. [end recording]

On what will happen if the Palestinians do not withdraw, al-Murr said:

[Begin recording] The cabinet decision calls for deployment. Therefore, the military authorities have taken all

the necessary measures to implement the cabinet decision and deploy within 24 hours. Therefore, the deployment will take place. [end recording]

Palestinian Resistance to Army Deployment Noted

NC0107123091 Paris AFP in English 1137 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Report by Michel Moutot]

[Excerpts] Sidon, Lebanon, July 1 (AFP)—Lebanese troops entered the southern port city of Sidon and hoisted the flag in a peaceful take-over Monday, but Palestinians and pro-Iranian groups held up the Army's advance to the east.

President Ilyas al-Hirawi warned that the Army would use force if necessary to carry out its deployment and that it would no longer allow "mini-states" to operate in southern Lebanon.

"If the troops encounter resistance or come up against an obstacle, they will not stay idle," he said.

The streets of Sidon were deserted of civilians and shops shut as around 2,000 troops (eds: correct) took control of Lebanon's third-largest city with the cooperation of a Sunni Moslem militia that had been in charge since 1985. [passage omitted]

Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the PNO [Nasirite Popular Organization], which had controlled Sidon since a partial Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon six years ago, assured President al-Hirawi on Sunday of his support for the Army's deployment.

Mr. Sa'd had returned Saturday from a visit to Damascus, which along with Washington has backed the government's efforts to extend its control over the south, where troops had already taken up positions near Sidon in April.

At al-Salihiyah, on the 10-kilometre (six-mile) stretch from Sidon to Kafr Falus, armed Moslem fundamentalists of the Jama'ah Islamiyah [The Islamic Group] group held up an army convoy of 20 vehicles for around four hours.

The convoy was allowed to pass after talks between officers and Jamaa officials, one of whom told reporters that the Lebanese Army was "welcome to come and fight Israel."

Jama'ah Islamiyah is part of a Lebanese-Palestinian coalition of secular and fundamentalist groups that has been fighting the Israeli presence in southern Lebanon since 1985.

A military convoy on a different route was blocked by Palestinian guerrillas belonging to the dissident Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] group who refused to evacuate their positions at Buqsta, near the Kafr Falus front.

And on the outskirts of Sidon, armed PLO fighters used vehicles mounted with heavy machine-guns to block roads to the 'Ayn al-Hilwah and al-Miyah wa Miyah camps, which are home to around 150,000 Palestinian refugees.

New fortifications had been erected and trenches dug around positions held by the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which has 10,000 fighters in the Sidon region, its last stronghold in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

PLO Refuses To Hand Over Armed Positions

NC0107164291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] AFP has reported that the Lebanese Army suspended its deployment in eastern Sidon this afternoon after the PLO refused to hand over its positions. The agency said that Army units advancing on the Kafr Falus front stopped at the entrance to Kafr Jarrah village and then retreated about 500 meters to the al-Saliyiyah Barracks after preliminary talks between Lebanese officers and Palestinian officials broke down when the latter refused to hand over their positions. AFP cited a Lebanese Army officer as saying that military personnel had earlier received orders to regain their positions at the al-Salihiyah Barracks and then to continue the deployment by force, if need be. He added that they are awaiting instructions to proceed with the deployment.

The agency also reported that the Army today detained 10 Palestinian fighters when they refused to evacuate a position in al- Salihiyah on the Kafr Falus front.

Meanwhile, reports indicate that a state of maximum alert prevails at Palestinian camps in the Sidon area. Palestinian factions at the al-Shabriha, al-Burj al-Shamali, and al-Qasimiyah camps are reported to have cleaned their shelters and fortified their positions with heavy artillery.

In another development, sources close to Minister Dallul have said that there will be no discussion of the possibility of a [Lebanese-Palestinian] dialogue until the deployment process in the south is completed.

AFP Reports 'Snags' in Army Deployment

NC0107165391 Paris AFP in English 1604 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Report by Acil Tabbara]

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, July 1 (AFP)—A Lebanese army deployment in southern Lebanon hit snags Monday only hours after the first troops took over this port city with PLO fighters refusing to give up positions close to Israeli lines east of here.

"It had started like a dream," a reporter covering the deployment said.

The troops, in line with a government deadline, moved into Sidon at dawn meeting no resistance from a key Moslem militia that had been ruling the city since 1985.

The army hoisted the Lebanese flag as more than 3,000 soldiers fanned out through the streets of Sidon, Lebanon's third largest city which had escaped government control since civil strife broke out 16 years ago.

But as the troops moved further east they were stopped by fighters from the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Moslem fundamentalist combatants who refuse to give up positions facing Israeli-backed militiamen.

In al-Salihiyah, the troops arrested 10 Palestinians who refused to yield their position and carried out search operations, triggering protests from the local Fatah commander.

"We have not received orders to give up our positions," a Palestinian combatant said.

"The Army is welcome if it wants to fight Israel with us but not if it plans on stopping us from struggling against the Zionist enemy," he added.

Some 7,000 anti-Israeli militants, most of them Palestinians, are deployed along the Kafr Falus Front across from the Israeli-trained and financed South Lebanon Army which acts as a buffer zone for Israeli troops manning a "security zone" further south.

The PLO has been demanding for weeks an agreement with the Lebanese government guaranteeing the rights of some 350,000 Palestinians in the country.

In Beirut, Defense Minister Michel al-Murr, reiterating government threats to use force if necessary, told Agence France-Presse that the Army "will continue its deployment whatever the outcome of last minute negotiations."

President Ilyas al-Hirawi earlier warned he would no longer tolerate "mini-states," in a clear reference to the PLO's military presence in Lebanon.

Correspondents said the army had moved at a snail's pace since dawn with their advance constantly delayed by negotiations with the various Palestinian and fundamentalist factions deployed in the region.

In one incident, the troops had four hours of arduous negotiations with Islamic combatants from the Jama'ah Islamiyah [Islamic Group] near al-Salihiyah who were refusing to budge from their turf.

The combatants later agreed to evacuate the position although they stayed nearby with their arms at hand and one of them saying: "We are ready to cooperate with the Army but we would like to keep our bases in the front with Israel."

As the pace of negotiations with the different factions slowed, dozens of families began to evacuate the Sidon region, including Palestinian refugee camps on the outskirst of the city, fearing a flare-up between the Army and the fighters.

The government also dispatched to Sidon Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul for talks with Mustafa Sa'ad, whose militia had been controlling the port city since 1985.

Mr. Sa'ad was asked to mediate with the Palestinian fighters.

But a Palestinian official questioned by AFP later said: "Mr. Dallul has not brought us anything new. Out policy is clear: We will not evacuate our positions unless the (Lebanese) government agrees to an accord."

[In another Sidon-datelined report at 1645 GMT on 1 July, AFP adds: "A Lebanese soldier and two Moslem fundamentalist combatants were wounded Monday when the army clashed with Moslem militiamen who refused to cede a position to the troops near here."]

Air Force Reportedly Ready To Support Deployment

NC0107173191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] According to the latest information our security affairs reporter has received from the south, the Lebanese Army began advancing from al-Salihiyah toward Lib'a and 'Ayn al-Mir at 1800. The Army is detaining all gunmen in the designated deployment area.

A correspondent in the south has reported that shots were heard shortly after 1715 today in al-Salihiyah and that tension prevails.

AFP reports that the Lebanese Army detained 10 Palestinian fighters this afternoon during its advance toward the Kafr Falus front, east of Sidon, after they refused to evacuate their position in al-Salihiyah.

Citing official sources, the CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY said that the Lebanese Air Force was placed on maximum alert this afternoon to intervene in support of the deployment should the deployment plan encounter any obstacles that would make this necessary.

According to the latest reports from Sidon, the exodus from the city and the nearby camps is increasing.

Al-Murr Says Army Deployed in 'Most' Areas

NC0107172391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1636 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Statement issued by Defense Minister Michel al-Murr in Beirut on 1 July—read by announcer]

[Text] The Lebanese Army is proceeding with the implementation of the plan for its deployment drafted by the Army command and is adhering to the established timetable. Most of the areas covered by the plan have come under the control of the legitimate government.

The Army is continuing its advance to enable it to deploy in the remaining areas specified in the approved plan.

Palestinians To Defend Positions in South Lebanon

LD0107174991 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Excerpt] A Palestinian source in Lebanon has stated that Palestinians have decided to defend their guns in southern Lebanon. He accused the United States of wanting to uproot the Palestinian presence in southern Lebanon. He said: Our people have decided to defend their guns and not to surrender. He urged the officers and soldiers of the fraternal Lebanese Army not to record in their history that they accepted or permitted the implementation of U.S. wishes to disarm Palestinians and Lebanese. [passage omitted]

Committee Helping Secure Palestinian Withdrawal

NC0107191291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] According to the latest reports from the south, a committee composed of representatives of the Lebanese Army, the Palestinians, and the Nasirite Popular Organization has left for the Lib'a area to secure the withdrawal of Palestinian gunmen. It has also been reported that 76 Palestinians have been detained so far as a result of the fighting in Kafr Jarrah.

Army Searches Kafr Jarrah, Detains 'Gunmen'

NC0107192891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 July 91

[Text] The Army's guidance directorate has announced that the Army advanced on the al-Salihiyah-Lib'a line at 1900 today, when Army personnel and the al-Salihiyah barracks came under rocket fire from Fatah personnel in the al-Shawaliq and Kafr Jarrah areas. The army forces returned fire with the appropriate weapons and continued their advance on Lib'a. Another exchange of fire occurred at 1945, and the Army responded with the appropriate weapons. The Army has now cleared Kafr Jarrah of gunmen, after conducting house-to-house searches and detaining 70 [as heard] gunmen thus far. One Lebanese soldier has been wounded.

Palestinians Reportedly Agree To Withdraw

NC0107194391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] As the Lebanese Army continues advancing on the Kafr Falus front, political contacts with the Palestinians are under way in Sidon. A Palestinian delegation led by Abu-Fadi Raji has attended a meeting held at the home of Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization.

Speaking after the meeting, Abu-Fadi Raji noted the positive outcome of these contacts and the Palestinians' agreement to withdraw from their positions in Kafr Jarrah, 'Ayn al-Mir, and Lib'a on the Sidon-Jazzin line. Abu-Fadi added that the issue now is one of timing. The Palestinians need additional time to redeploy so they can facilitate the Lebanese Army's deployment.

Al-Murr: Campaign To Proceed 'Whatever the Cost'

NC0107201491 Paris AFP in English 1951 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Beirut, July 1 (AFP)—Lebanon's Army will forge ahead with its campaign to establish control in the country "whatever the cost" despite clashes on Monday with Palestinians near the port city of Sidon, Defense Minister Michel al-Murr said here Monday.

He blamed Palestinians for the attacks on the Army in which a Lebanese soldier and two militiamen were wounded.

A Defense Ministry communique specified that members of the Fatah group, supporters of Palestian Liberation Organization (PLO) chairman Yasir 'Arafat, were responsible.

It stated that 65 [as received] Palestinians had been taken prisoner in house-to-house raids.

"The deployment will take place whatever the cost," said Mr. al-Murr in an interview with AFP. "We are not about to fight the Palestinians but to deploy ourselves on the national territory. It was they who opened fire," he said.

The defense minister said that negotiations with Palestinian representatives were suspended Monday, but could be resumed Tuesday "if the Palestinians adopt a positive attitude."

The PLO has welcomed deployment of the Army in Sidon, its last bastion in Lebanon, but has called for a political agreement to guarantee the presence of the 350,000 military and civilian Palestinians in Lebanon.

After a one-hour rocket and gun battle, the Lebanese Army troops succeeded in dislodging the militants and were able to continue their advance east of Sidon, Lebanon's third-largest city and home to a large concentration of Palestinians, including 10,000 militants.

The incident occurred only hours after the Army began its deployment in southern Lebanon with a peaceful takeover of the port of Sidon.

The thud of exploding rockets and shooting could be heard in the region. [passage omitted]

Minister of State 'Abdallah al-Amin meanwhile criticised the Palestinians' refusal to give up their positions saying this policy would lead "to their political destruction."

He warned that there could be no dialogue unless the fighters complied with the Army, in reference to

demands by the Palestinians for an accord with the government guaranteeing the rights of 350,000 Palestinians living in Lebanon.

In Tunis, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Executive Committee met under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat to review the situation.

Junblatt Comments on Army Deployment

NC0207071091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Progresive Socialist Party Leader Walid Junblatt has said that there is no scene uglier or more ridiculous than seeing tanks with soldiers on a domestic security task. [passage omitted]

After having heard resounding statements by senior civilian and military officials, we hope that the Lebanese Army will deploy in the south and accomplish the national task of liberating the south from the Israeli occupation and present a modest appearance. This Army, which throughout its history has not fired one bullet against the Israeli enemy, must remember that Sidon is the bastion of the national resistance and the city that produced Ma'ruf Sa'd. Sidon will embrace the Army if it shows patriotic respect and behaves ethically. He said that southern Lebanon territory and resources are threatened by Israel and the United States. [passage omitted]

Junblatt said: I reiterate; let the Army enter the south to liberate it from Israel and its agents. Let this Army take care and reassure the Palestinian people and open the door wide for dialogue with this people, who have been unjustly treated everywhere. [passage omitted]

Further on Clashes in Sidon Areas

NC0207051391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0505 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] We have just received the following report:

Our correspondent in Sidon reported a short while ago that clashes are currently raging in areas east of Sidon between Army positions in Kafr Jarrah, Lib'a, and 'Ayn-al-Mir and Palestinian gunmen in Wadi al-Laymun, Jinsnaya, and 'Ayn al-Dulb. Heavy-caliber machine guns and mortars are being used in the fighting.

The correspondent said that columns of smoke are seen rising from the scenes of clashes and that the sound of explosions is being heard in Sidon.

Palestinian Camps, Sidon Reportedly Shelled

NC0207055591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Fierce clashes renewed this morning between the Lebanese Army and the Palestinians. Both sides are trading artillery and rocket fire in the villages of 'Ayn al-Dulb and al-Qurayyah and the surrounding hills. The 'Ayn al-Hulwah and al-Miyah wa Miyah camps are being shelled. The outskirts of Sidon city are coming under artillery fire and the thud of exploding shells is constantly heard in the city.

Defense Minister on Army's Advance, Successes

NC0207054891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0522 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Statement issued by Defense Minister Engineer Michel al-Murr on 2 July—read by announcer]

[Text] In continuing the deployment process, Lebanese Army forces advanced on three fronts this morning. Army units cleared the 'Ayn al-Dulb combat line of gunmen, thus enabling the 6th Brigade to enter 'Ayn al-Dulb. Meanwhile, a force of commandos advanced toward the front, which was the scene of obstacles yesterday, and managed to enter Baysur and cleared it of Palestinian gunmen. The force is now advancing toward Jinsnaya, which is expected to fall to the Army within an hour.

The 6th Brigade entered Majdalayya and cleared it of gunmen. The brigade is currently conducting searches in ridges overlooking the town.

The Lebanese Army forces continue to advance on the three fronts. They captured many Palestinian gunmen who tried to obstruct the Army's advance. The Lebanese Army so far has sustained no casualties.

Group Claims Attack Against Israeli Patrol

NC0207064291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] According to available reports, at 1620 yesterday, a group from the Islamic Resistance and the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine ambushed an enemy intelligence motorcade consisting of a Mercedes 500 and a Range Rover in the outskirts of Blida, 500 meters from the borders with occupied Palestine. (Bedox), a senior Israeli Government official, was among the passengers. The mujahdin surprised the motorcade with machine-gun and rocket fire, destroying the motorcade and killing all the passengers.

The group managed to withdraw and lie in wait for a Zionist supply convoy. At approximately 1700, the mujahidin group fought a fierce clash with the Zionist convoy, using machine guns and rockets. At approximately 1900, the enemy brought in tanks, vehicles, and soldiers. Enemy military activity was seen along the border. Helicopters flew over the area that was sealed off by the enemy occupation forces. A Zionist military source admitted two soldiers were injured in the clash.

Army Captures Jinsnaya, Besieges Al-Qurayyah

NC0207055991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] We have just been informed by the defense minister that the township of Jinsnaya has been captured by the Army. Meanwhile, al-Qurayyah is surrounded by the 6th Brigade and commandos and is about to surrender.

Palestinians Reportedly Bombard Southern Towns

NC0207063591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0625 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] We have just received the following report from the news desk:

According to the most recent security reports, the township of al-Qurayyah is the scene of fierce military operations, and the towns of Majdalayya and Tanburit are currently being bombarded by Palestinian gunmen.

'Arafat Reportedly Asks Palestinians To Fight

NC0207064591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0636 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] According to press information attributed to Palestinian leaders in Sidon, Yasir 'Arafat has sent a cable to his factions in Sidon saying that this is not the first time that the Palestinians have been subjected to plots and that they must fight.

'Violent' Clashes Continue in South

NC0207071391 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] We have just received the following report from our correspondent in the south:

Violent clashes continue to rage between the Lebanese Army and Palestinian gunmen along the east Sidon combat lines, particularly 'Ayn al-Dulb, Jinsnaya, and al-Qurayyah. Artillery, rockets, and machine guns are being used in the fighting.

Our correspondent added that Army tanks in Majdalyun are coming under violent shell fire from Palestinian positions. He said that rocket launchers and field artillery are being used in the battles. The correspondent said that tension reigns in Sidon and that there is an exodus of Palestinians from Sidon camps toward Tyre camps.

NPO Forces Vacate Positions

NC0207072291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0710 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] A military spokesman for the Nasirite Popular Organization [NPO] has declared that all NPO military positions have been vacated to facilitate the Army deployment.

Al-Murr Urges Army To Continue 'True Battle'

NC0207075591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Address to the Army by Defense Minister Michel al-Murr; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] O brave heroes of our Army, as you are performing the most honorable mission, the mission of ending the war and extending the authority of the legitimacy over the soil mixed with the blood of martyrs, I extend to you a greeting from the homeland. The hearts of all sons of the homeland rally around you today. All eyes are focused on you, all the Lebanese people bless you, and the consciences of all the people appeal to you. Carry on the march of salvation and deliverance. Today you are waging the true battle of unifying Lebanon. You are standing side by side so that from your unity the unity of the homeland will emerge. A free, healthy, and independent Lebanon will be built on your closed ranks.

Your rifles that are implementing the legitimate government's decisions are ending the war once and for all and painting a rosy dawn—a dawn of firm peace, solid unity, reassurance, and prosperity. As you are bringing the homeland to the south and restoring the south to the homeland, you are burying the last chapter of the fierce plot that brought about the 16-year-long tragedy.

As you and the homeland await the joyful end of deployment on what remained of the beloved and occupied land of the south, I extend greetings of admiration and appreciation to you and to your commander who is among you, the south command, the commanders, officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers of the units participating in the battle of salvation, and to the entire Lebanese Army that is ready to support you, because in the battle you are one body and your fate is the same. I extend to you the greetings of the Lebanese people.

Fighting Abates in Areas, Intensifies in Others

NC0207082091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0805 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Clashes on the battle lines of Jinsnaya, al-Qurayyah, 'Ayn al-Dulb, and al-Miyah wa Miyah abated at 0910. Meanwhile, the Nasirite Popular Organization is currently holding exchanges with the ministers to stop the clashes. The Palestinian factions will meet with Minister of State As'ad Hardan at the Syrian Social Nationalist Party office in Beirut [as heard] for the same purpose.

Our correspondent in Sidon said a short while ago that fighting in areas east of Sidon is intensifying at times and subsiding at others. The sound of exploding rockets and shells is clearly heard in the town. It has been learned that the Lebanese Army is returning the fire. It has also been learned that fierce fighting is currently taking place around al-Qurayyah, where the the Lebanese Army is

confronting the armed Palestinian fighters who are obstructing its advance and deployment plan.

Al-Murr Says Battle 'Almost Over'

NC0207084691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr said a short while ago that the battle is almost over, that the Army is now in control of most axes, and that the Palestinians used all types of heavy weapons, such as rocket launchers and artillery, a well as medium- and light-caliber weapons. He said that the Army has scored a crushing defeat against all those who tried to obstruct its deployment. Minister al-Murr said:

[Begin recording] Since this morning, the Army has begun to deploy along four axes. The 3d Brigade entered Maghdushah from [name indistinct], brought it under control, and purged it of Palestinian gunmen. The 6th Brigade proceeded on the 'Ayn al-Dulb axis and entered al-Qurayyah, which had been fortified, and put it under conrol. A commando regiment entered the villages of Baysur and Jinsnaya, which were fortified and mined and contained arms depots. The Lebanese Army has taken over all these depots.

The 9th Brigade proceeded on the Kafr Jarrah-Lib'a-'Ayn al-Mir axis and put it under complete control. Thus the entire east Sidon area has fallen within hours to the Lebanese Army, which has achieved a crushing victory over the gunmen. The Army is now deployed on the contact line with [South Lebanese Army Commander] Lahd. It is expected that the entire battle will be over within two or three hours. This is the current military situation.

The Lebanese Army has a large number of POW's because it avoided as much as possible inflicting loss of lives, and therefore preferred to take prisoners rather than kill. The number of POW's exceeds 200. There have been only three Lebanese Army casualties. [end recording]

Army Continues Advance; Violent Clashes Reported

NC0207083491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0824 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Sidon has just informed us that the Lebanese Army is currently advancing along the Harat Sayda-'Ayn al-Dulb front toward 'Ayn al-Dulb. Violent clashes are raging between the Army and Palestinian factions on the same front.

Fatah's Wahbah on Sidon 'Massacre'

NC0207091091 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0850 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Fatah's representative in Lebanon Zayd Wahbah has said that what is taking place in east Sidon is a massacre committed against the Palestinian people and their presence. He added: The ongoing events confirm that we are facing another Philip Habib with the aim of deporting the Palestinians to unknown destinations. Wahbah called for a cease-fire and for holding exchanges in order to start the dialogue.

Wahbah said that the al-Miyah wa Miyah and 'Ayn al-Hulwah camps are being subjected to bombardment and sniper fire. He said that a number of shells fell on the two camps.

Meanwhile, a source in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine held the Lebanese Army responsible for the outbreak of fighting and accused it of opening fire at a time when negotiations were under way to ensure the evacuation of the Palestinian fighters from the areas of Army deployment.

Army Detains 200 Palestinians; Seizes Arms Depots

NC0207091791 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0905 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] According to the latest reports from Sidon, the Lebanese Army is now in full control of east Sidon after capturing all the positions manned by Palestinian fighters. The reports said that the Army managed to take 200 Palestinian gunmen prisoner and to seize all of the arms and ammunition depots in Baysur and Jinsnaya.

Army Seizes Al-Miyah wa Miyah

NC0207100591 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0948 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] According to the latest security report from the south, the Lebanese Army has entered al-Miyah wa Miyah, and violent clashes are currently raging with Palestinian gunmen. Army units are conducting slow-paced searches in al-Qurayyah due to the presence of land mines.

REUTER reported that the Palestinian snipers are directing their fire at the Lebanese Army. Military sources said that the Palestinian gunmen are surrounded in an area less than 4 square km.

PLO Leadership Issues Statement on Fighting

NC0207103291 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0955 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] The PLO leadership met today and issued the following statement:

1. We reiterate the PLO's stand, which welcomes the accord, the imposition of Lebanese authority, and the Army deployment in the south on the road of liberating it from the Israeli occupation and implementing Resolution 425;

2. Despite the positive Palestinian attitude and the one-sided response, and despite the repeated calls for holding a dialogue and reaching an understanding in

order to work out common grounds that would facilitate the deployment and safeguard the camps' security against the repeated Israeli attacks, we so far have not sensed any understanding or positiveness. Rather, we were surprised this morning by the concentrated and violent bombardment by all types of weapons of the residential and civilian areas in 'Ayn al-Hulwah and al-Miyah wa Miyah. This is in addition to the discriminate arrest and the unjustified attacks on civilians;

3. To spare the blood and to preserve the fraternal ties, the PLO leadership urges all forces, key figures, and the Islamic and nationalist forces' meeting in Sidon—the decision and stand of which we totally support and abide by—to intercede with the competent official quarters and ask them to observe an immediate cease-fire, start a dialogue, and hold serious discussions for resolving the problems; and

4. The PLO leadership calls on the Lebanese Government to trade the war for the fraternal ties and to start a serious political dialogue to normalize the relations between the two sides, and to honor its pledges and promises concerning the Palestinian people in Lebanon's political and social rights and their right to struggle.

Army Announces Casualties; Cites 'Restraint'

NC0207105691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1040 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Army Command Guidance Directorate Statement issued on 2 July; place not given]

[Text] Gunmen have been shelling the Army units deployed on 'Ayn al-Dulb-al-Qurayyah line and other areas. An Army officer was killed and two other servicemen were injured as a result. The Army is exercising maximum restraint and is returning fire in a precise, limited manner. The Army is seeking to complete the deployment quickly and with minimum losses.

8 Palestinians Killed; Houses Destroyed in Camp

NC0207110691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1042 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] A Palestinian source has said that eight people have been killed and four houses destroyed in al-Miyah wa Miyah camp. Inhabitants of the camp urged the Army to complete its deployment to spare bloodshed.

Health of U.S. Hostages Reportedly Deteriorating

NC0207104791 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 1 Jul 91 p 7

[Text] A well-informed source has confirmed to AL-SHIRA' that the health of U.S. hostages Terry Anderson and Alann Steen, particularly the latter, is continuously deteriorating. All forms of medication that have been given to Steen for some time have failed to help him recover.

The source declined to say whether the deterioration in the health of both hostages may help bring about their release, or whether this issue is one of the signs of a possibile a solution to the foreign hostage situation in Lebanon in the near future.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Ambush Kills 14 Kabul Troops

BK0107153991 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, mujahidin ambushed Kabul regime forces five km from the old Balkh city. The Kabul forces fled leaving behind 14 dead and eight trucks loaded with arms. Forty Kabul troops surrendered to the mujahidin. Four mujahidin were martyred and 10 injured in the operation.

Najibollah Meets With UN's Perez De Cuellar

LD0107095891 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] The presidential press office has told BAKHTAR that esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, met this morning at the presidential headquarters with His Excellency Benon Sevan, deputy and special envoy of His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general and coordinator of the UN humanitarian and economic assistance for Afghanistan.

During this meeting, which was also attended by Mohammad Eshaq Tokhi, advise to the president, His Excellency Benon Sevan conveyed to esteemed Najibollah the appreciation and pleasure of His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar for the realistic stance of the Republic of Afghanistan on the statement of the UN secretary general. He also informed the esteemed president of Afghanistan on UN efforts for the political solution of the Afghan problem, the proposal of the His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar in this connection, and the reaction and stance of the sides involved and the countries concerned in the issue.

For his part esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, mentioned with satisfaction the efforts made by His Excellency the secretary general and that of his special envoy to achieve a peaceful and political solution of the issue of Afghanistan, stressing that the secretary general's statement has opened a new page in this respect and is the beginning of a new stage in the political solution of the issue of Afghanistan. As this step conforms to and corresponds with the spirit of the national reconciliation policy we feel obliged to declare support for it.

The state of the Republic of Afghanistan will make every necessary efforts to pave the way for the practical implementation of the statement of the secretary general. Esteemed Najibollah added that in our view his proposal can provide a good framework to begin talks and to achieve an inter-Afghan understanding. We hope that all the sides will meet to talk, by understanding the reality and by using the relatively favorable climate which has raised issues that can be assessed in order to achieve an acceptable and just solution, and to decide about their country and its future. The esteemed president of Afghanistan said he hopes that the United Nations will accelerate its efforts, as before, to extend the peace process.

Wakil, Swiss Minister Discuss Peace Efforts

LD0107145191 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Excerpts] His Excellency Klaus Jacobi, minister fo state for foreign affairs of Switzerland, leading a high-ranking delegation arrived this morning to Kabul at the invitation of Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdol Wakil for an official, friendly, goodwill, and working visit. His Excellency Jacobi and his accompanying delegation were welcomed at Kabul international airport by Foreign Minister Wakil; Daud Kawian, deputy foreign minister; and a number of high-ranking officials of the Foreign Ministry.

Accoring to another report, 'Abdol Wakil held talks this morning in his office with His Excellency Klaus Jacobi and his accompanying delegation. During the talks, the foreign minister of Afghanistan—having expressed thanks for the official friendly visit of His Excellency Jacobi, and expressing satisfaction on the development of friendly contacts between the Republic and Switzerland—talked comprehensively about current developments in and around the Republic of Afghanistan, issues related to the expansion and development of bilateral ties between both countries, the international and regional situation, and the participation of Switzerland to contribute to a political solution in Afghanistan.

The foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan said: The Republic of Afghanistan, taking into account the international credibility and prestige of Switzerland as a neutral country, appreciates its neutral and active stand regarding political solution of the Afghan situation and the ensuring of peace in Afghanistan and values this respect. We are fully confident that the Swiss, having such international prestige and good understanding relations with groups involved in the Afghan problem, can play a considerable role in helping to alleviate Afghan's problems. [passage omitted] During the meeting the Afghan foreign minister and the minister of state for foreign affairs of Switzerland exchanged views on all issues of interest, expressed interest in the progress and expansion of bilateral relations in various fields—political, economic, scientific, cultural, and technical. Outlining reforms and extent of cooperation in connection with Switzerland's participation in the acceleration of a political solution of the Afghan situation, they expressed their support for the five-point statement of the UN secretary general in this respect and emphasized the continuation of contact in harmony with the UN peace plan. [passage omitted]

Forces Continue Fighting in Qandahar

LD0107160291 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] The units and companies of the Armed Forces stationed in Qandahar province carried out mopping up and combat operations the day before yesterday in some parts of that province.

According to a report by the BAKHTAR military section, in the course of these operations a number of warmongering extremists were crushed and 18 cases Dshks shells, 79 mortar shells, 30 rocket launcher shells, and 10 gun shells were seized. Also,a BM1 system, a gun and three rocket launchers and a large quantity of ammunition were destroyed.

Twenty men from the extremist groups of Golboddin [Hekmatyar] and Jami'at-e Eslami were recently killed in the course of the heavy armed clashes, which took place among the rival groups in some parts of Nawzad district, Helmand Province. According to a report by BAKHTAR'S military section, in the course of this fighting which took place in line with the revengeful attacks and internal discords among the hostile groups, 30 others were injured. Several weapons and a quantity of ammunition were destroyed. Intensive clashes are continuing.

Bangladesh

Zia Delivers Speech on Parliamentary System

BK0107162591 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1315 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Address to the nation by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Dear brothers and sisters of the country, peace be upon you. I am here before you today with some important issues of national life. Before I discuss these issues, let me remember with my heartfelt sorrow the brothers and sisters who were killed in the century's most devastating cyclone and tidal wave which struck the coastal areas of the country on 29 April. I pray to God, the most compassionate, for the salvation of their souls. I express my deep sympathies with those who are surviving while struggling against all odds.

Dear countrymen, you are surely aware that Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP] secured the majority in Parliament through its nine year's struggle in an atmosphere free from autocracy and through free elections. It was the correct decision by the country's people who are imbued with the spirit of struggle for democracy which led to our victory. I believe that the people of Bangladesh are conscious of politics and history. You have not forgotten the history of our ups and downs during the past 20 years. The people of this country are in the process of creating a long history of struggle for the sake of their independence, culture, democracy, and economic emancipation. You also know that we had to move forward by dealing with some constitutional and political issues and constant natural calamities following the 27 February Parliament elections. A colossal catastrophe befell our national life within only 39 days after a new government assumed office. It was a hard test for us to deal with the unprecedented natural calamity. On one hand, we had the devastated economy as a result of the autocratic rule; on the other, we were facing a deficiency of resources. In such a tragic situation, we put our heart and soul to deal with the crisis while enjoying your cooperation. The spontaneous response of all the countrymen in relief operations, the liberal help and cooperation of the world community and the wishes of God, the most compassionate, has enabled us to overcome the crisis in a manner which we could not expect. This success does not belong to us alone. It is the success of you all. Because it is you from whom we derive power. I wholeheartedly believe that the source of all our power is the people. The wishes of the people are our source of inspiration. We succeeded in securing the massive trust of the international community in dealing with the disaster because we have a democratic government which has the strength and courage and which derives its strength from the people. There was an unprecedented international response in dealing with the national calamity. I express my sincere gratitude to all the countries which helped us and extended to us their hands of deep sympathy and stood by our grief-stricken affected people.

After the government assumed office, I visited some countries in order to hold talks on bilateral relations. These visits have been very fruitful. The support and respect extended to our elected government by the government and people of the countries which I visited is mainly due to the people of our country.

Dear brothers and sisters, you know, the BNP is deeply attached to the people's aspirations and their joys and sorrows. Our ties with the countrymen and their thoughts and conscience and their feelings are very deep. You have seen and you have been implemented one by one, the pledges we made prior to the Parliamentary elections despite hundreds of obstacles.

In order to lessen the hardship of poor peasants, the land tax, up to 10 acres of land and agricultural loan up to 5,000 taka, along with its interest have already been exempted. The age limit for government jobs has been raised from 27 to 30 years in order to ensure the [words indistinct] of your children. As an initial step to check the irregularities in money supply system and banking, adequate measures are being taken to realize the huge amount of defaulting loans. Work has also started for the establishment of a corruption-free, honest, and dynamic administrative structure in keeping with our pledge in this connection. Inquiries at various levels have begun to bring into surface the corruption, irregularities, and financial indiscipline during the past nine years.

Dear countrymen, we have been constantly facing many unwarranted obstacles on the way to implementation of our dreams of democracy and prosperity since Bangladesh was established after unlimited sacrifice of the people and loss of numerous lives in 1971. The dream of economic emancipation and democratic aspiration, which kindled the fire of our desire for independence, still remained only a dream even after independence was achieved. The people were deprived of their long-nurtured dream of fundamental democratic rights and subjected to an intolerable situation. But the freedom-loving people continued their march and the struggle for democracy.

The topic to which I would like to draw your attention today is the constitutional aspect of the establishment of a democratic system of government. Despite the democratic zeal among the people, some corrupt and autocratic individuals and groups who lacked popular support have repeatedly trampled democracy. We believe that it will be possible to pave the way for the establishment of a completely democratic society through uninterrupted democratization by the process of transfer of power.

Dear countrymen, one-party rule was introduced in 1975 through the fourth constitutional amendment bill replacing the Parliamentary system. You must not have forgotten that. So I am not going to discuss that. You also remember that the BNP has been in the forefront in establishing an accountable and welfare-based democratic system of government. In the later stage, during the BNP government, a multi-party system was established in place of one-party rule. It was again during the BNP rule that the individual freedom, freedom of the press, and the fundamental rights of the people were firmly established. The beloved leader of the people—President Zia—inspired the people with the politics of production and democratic awareness. He wanted to implant the seed of democracy deep into the roots of the society so that nobody could dare weed it out in future. But the vested interests did not like the march of democracy. As a consequence, a conspiracy started. President Ziaur Rahman was brutally assassinated in 1981. That conspiracy [words indistinct]. Hussain Mohammad Ershad illegally seized power by overthrowing the elected BNP government headed by Justice Abdus Sattar on 24 March 1982. The march toward democracy was thus again disrupted. We again came under the clutches of an autocratic administration. The illegal seizure of power by the corrupt, unethical element established a (?misadministration). They destroyed all our democratic values, institutions, and judicial system. Poison of corruption was spread on all strata of the society and the administration was transformed into the rule of an individual.

But the people of this country never accepted that autocrat for a day or a second. You know that we continued the struggle for democracy on the street for nine years while facing all attacks and torture and standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the people. [Words indistinct] paved the way for restoration of democracy today. The great Parliament has been formed through neutral and free elections after the fall of the autocratic rule. With the nightmare of nine years of autocratic rule, the question has emerged today about the system of government. It goes without saying that democracy and welfare of the people do not depend on the system of government alone. No system can assure democracy if it is devoid of true love for the country and the people and the sincere desire to establish the people's rights. This is the lesson of history. But still, we feel that a need has arisen for the reorganization of the system of government in view of the changed situation and time. We alrady said the Parliament would decide on the system of government. After extensive consultations at various levels it has become clear that almost all are unanimous in the Parliament on the reorganization of the system of government. Given this backdrop, the BNP has decided to establish the Parliamentary system of government by moving a new constitutional amendment bill. I am here to inform you of this before the bill is moved at Parliament, as the history of our constitutional and national political life will enter a new phase with the adoption of this new constitutional bill.

Dear countrymen, you are aware that the BNP never hesitated in the past nor will it in the future take any constitutional and administrative step for democracy and stability in accordance with the needs of the time and in the greater national interest. This great Parliament which has emerged as a result of the popular uprising is going to take this historic decision to establish Parliamentary democracy. I am giving the clarion call to all political parties and countrymen to firmly establish this system in our national life. Dear countrymen, I assure you that we will ensure the political, social, economic, cultural, and religious rights of all people in Bangladesh, irrespective of religion, caste or creed. We are committed to establishing a prosperous and exploitation-free society in Bangladesh based on democracy, Bangladeshi nationalism, and social justice while having firm faith in the Almighty God. May God help us. May God take care of you. Long Live Bangladesh.

India

Further Reportage on Kidnapped Tourist, Workers

Swedish Prime Minister Urges Release

BK2606163291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] The Swedish prime minister, Mr. Ingvar Carlsson, has appealed to the militants in the Kashmir valley to immediately release the two kidnapped Swedish engineers. They were kidnapped about three months ago and first information about their whereabouts came from interviews published by journalists from across the border. Mr. Carlsson said long deprivation of freedom to the two Swedish nationals has caused deep personal suffering to their families. Our correspondent says there

has been demonstrations in the valley condemning the kidnapping, particularly by workers of the URI project, where the engineers were working. Several world bodies and Islamic organizations, including the Amnesty International, Islamic Council of Sweden, and the UN secretary general have appealed to the militants to release the engineers.

Senior IOC Official Kidnapped

BK2806160991 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] In Srinagar, militants kidnapped today a senior official of the Indian Oil Corporation [IOC], Mr. Doraiswamy, who was on a tour to the valley. He had gone for an inspection of the installations at (Zevan) when he was taken away by the militants after they ascertained from local corporation officials that Mr. Doraiswamy was the senior official. State authorities have launched a massive search for the kidnappers and to get Mr. Doraiswamy released.

One Israeli tourist who was kidnapped on Wednesday [26 June] night is still in the custody of the militants. The body of the Israeli tourist who was killed in the scuffle with the militants is being flown to New Delhi from Srinagar. Some Israeli tourists are also arriving in the capital in the same flight later this evening. It may be recalled that the Israeli tourists had also killed two militants and seriously wounded another and snatched away arms and ammunition during yesterday's [as heard] scuffle.

Elsewhere in the Kashmir valley, three militants and a civilian were killed in terrorist violence in the last 24 hours. Security forces arrested eight subversives from different parts of the valley and recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

The officers and employees of the IOC have appealed to the kidnappers to release Mr. Doraiswamy. In a statement, they said that the abduction has come as a jolt to the IOC staff who are engaged in ensuring continued supply of kerosene in the valley despite several problems.

The spokesman for the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen in New Delhi that the government of India has extended full cooperation to the Israeli consul in Bombay, looking after the Israeli tourists visiting India. The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, today held a meeting with the senior officers of his ministry. The officers apprised him of various issues and the overall law and order situation in the country. The minister of state for home, Mr. M.M. Jacob, was also present.

20 Officials Abducted in Assam

BK0207043891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1913 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] New Delhi, July 1 (AFP)—Separatists have abducted a Soviet engineer and 20 Indian officials in Assam, triggering a security clampdown in the north-eastern frontier state, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported Monday.

Fourteen of the victims, including the Soviet national and seven Indians from the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC), were abducted Monday, a day after the seven others were taken away.

There was no official confirmation of the PTI report, but officials in New Delhi said they were checking it with the Assam state administration.

PTI said the United Assam Liberation Front (ULFA) militants staged the kidnappings, but there was no immediate claim of responsibility from the close-knit group.

The ULFA campaigns for the independence of Assam, an oil, tea and timber producing state which borders on Bangladesh and Bhutan. It is thought to have 5,000 members.

The Soviet citizen, identified only as Sergey, was kidnapped from Margherita in upper Assam where he worked as an engineer in a colliery of the state-owned Coal India Ltd., PTI said.

The domestic news agency added that the seven ONGC officials, including two geophysicists, were taken by ULFA guerrillas in the towns of Jorhat and Nazira.

Soviet diplomats in New Delhi were not available for comment, but a Coal India official said the company had several foreigners working in state-owned coal mines in Assam.

Newly-elected Assam Chief Minister Hiteswar Saikia placed the army on standby and ordered a sweeping security crackdown by police and paramilitary personnel to track down the abductors, PTI quoted high-placed sources as saying in New Delhi.

The chief minister, in a regional television broadcast Monday, appealed to the abductors to release the victims and urged them to hold talks. "No problems could be solved by gun-[word indistinct] and hatred," he said.

Contingents of police were meanwhile deployed at "vunerable points" to prevent more abductions, and senior officials were asked not to expose themselves to danger.

Among the other Indian officials kidnapped were top federal civil servant S.K. Tiwari, another senior bureaucrat, Rajit Singh, and a driver who was seized Monday in the town of Dispur.

They were travelling in a car to their office when they were intercepted and pushed into another vehicle in a daylight abduction witnessed by several people, PTI said.

Also abducted Monday was Deputy Commissioner M.M. Das from Mangaldai town, one of several ULFA strongholds in Assam, senior telecommunications officer Desrath Pandit from the hill town of Jorhat, and a man identified only as Sharma from the suburbs of Mangaldai.

Chief Minister Saikia led Congress (I), the party of slain former premier Rajiv Gandhi, to victory in Assam in elections that were held later than elsewhere in India to offset fears of separatist poll violence.

Search for Oil Official Continues

BK0207045091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] In Kashmir, an intensive search is continuing to trace the Indian oil corporation official, Mr. Doraiswamy. The militants have extended the deadline up to 3 p.m. today for his release in exchange for the release of three of their activists.

Meanwhile, the governor, Mr. G.C. Saxena, yesterday held a meeting of senior officials to review the progress made in securing the release of Mr. Doraiswamy.

One Kidnapped Official Released in Assam

BK0207091091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] In Assam, one of the kidnapped officials of the ONGC [Oil and Natural Gas Commission] has been released. The suspected ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] activists released Mr. Narender Sharma, deputy general manager, ONGC, at Jorhat last night. Police and paramilitary forces are continuing their search throughout the state to trace out the remaining persons abducted yesterday. The state government has also alerted the army to assist the civil administration as and when required. According to the latest report received at Guwahati, a total number of 16 persons, including a Soviet national, were kidnapped yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Assam chief minister, Mr. Hiteshwar Saikia, has appealed to the ULFA to give up violence and come to the negotiating table to resolve their problems in a democratic manner. In a broadcast over All India Radio, Guwahati, yesterday, Mr. Saikia also appealed to all to make an earnest endeavor to bring back normalcy in the state.

Reports of Mossad Link Termed 'Fanciful'

BK0107145691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] India has described as wild and fanciful press reports from Pakistan that Israeli tourists, who confronted kidnappers in the Kashmir valley recently, are from the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry today expressed surprise that instead of condemning the heinous deed of the terrorists, the reports have viewed their activities with sympathy. He told newsmen in New Delhi that these are aimed at drawing attention away from acts of kidnapping and other crimes by groups operating from within the Pakistan-controlled territory.

Official Comments on Wounded Tourist

TA0107135691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] Moshe Yegar, the deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry, who is dealing with the issue of the Israeli travelers in India, says that it looks as though the wounded will be able to stand the flight from Kashmir back to Israel by the end of the week. He said this after a conversation with personnel from the Indian External Affairs and Home Affairs Ministries in New Delhi. He pointed out that the wounded are in good condition and that in a few hours the Israeli consul will be updated on their condition by the attending physician. Yegar emphasized that the attitude of the Indian authorities has been exemplary and that he has been given every necessary assistance. He was speaking in an interview with Qol Yisra'el. He refused, however, to elaborate on the issue of the kidnaped tourist Ya'ir Yitzhaqi.

Army May Be Used in Assam

BK0207042891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] In Assam, the army has been asked to stand by following the kidnapping of 11 persons allegedly by ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] militants. According to PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA], the decision was taken by the state chief minister, Mr. Hiteshwar Saikya, at an emergency Cabinet meeting in Guwahati last night. He affirmed that the Assam Government would not hesitate to use the army to seek the release of the kidnapped officials, which inculuded five executives of the ONGC [Oil and Natural Gas Commission]. The minister of state for home, M.M. Jacob, is in constant touch with the state government and is closely watching the situation.

Meanwhile, the paramilitary forces continued large scale operations to trace the kidnapped officials. Police raided at least four suspected ULFA camps and apprehended one hard core militant in Tinsukia District. No organization has so far claimed responsibility for the abduction or put forward any demand.

Delhi Wants Talks With Punjab, Kashmir Militants

BK2806035891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] The government at the center is willing to initiate a dialogue with those militant groups in Punjab and Kashmir who are willing to give up violence and work within the Indian Constitution to find the solution to the problems in these two states. This was disclosed by the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, while talking to some newsmen in New Delhi yesterday. Mr. Chavan said, however, the government would first like to talk to the

political parties who can help find the solution. The home minister said the root problem in Punjab and Kashmir is lost confidence and the real issue is to find a political solution. Mr. Chavan said he would visit Punjab as soon as possible to review the situation.

Sikh Students Reject Peace Talk Offer

BK2806132291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] The All India Sikh Student Federation [AISSF], Manjit Group, has turned down the center's offer for talks with the militants in Punjab. Addressing a press conference in Chandigarh today, the AISSF general secretary, Mr. Harminder Singh Gill, said such invitations are meaningless under the prevailing circumstances. The union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, had yesterday expressed the center's willingness to talk to the Punjab militants if they give up violence and work within the framework of the Constitution. Mr. Gill also criticized the postponement of elections in Punjab.

Concern Expressed on Proposed VOA Station

BK3006142091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] India has expressed concern over the proposed setting up of a high-power transmitter of VOICE OF AMERICA on the west coast of Sri Lanka. PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] says this was coveyed by the foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, when he met his Sri Lankan counterpart, Mr. Tilakaratane, in Colombo in yesterday. Mr. Dubey was in Colombo on his way to the Maldivian capital to participate in the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] foreign secretaries meeting. Under the India-Sri Lankan agreement of July 1987, Colmbo had assured New Delhi that the island nation's agreements with foreign broadcasting organizations would be reviewed to ensure such facilities are not used for military or intelligence purposes.

Defense Minister Visits Leh Region of Kashmir

BK0107120091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, arrived at Leh this morning on a two-day visit to army formations at high altitude areas. Soon after his arrival, the defense minister was apprised by senior army and air force officials about the security arrangements in the area. Mr. Pawar made detailed inquiries about the medical arrangements and the welfare programs for the troops.

Upgrading of Ties With Israel Ruled Out

BK0107145891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] New Delhi has clarified there is no proposal to modify or upgrade its diplomatic relations with Israel. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said this while disclosing the arrival of an Israeli official in the capital today in connection with the kidnapping of an Israeli tourist in Kashmir. The official, Mr. Moshe Yegor, a director in Israel's Foreign Ministry, met the officials in the external affairs and home ministries. He was provided with details of the kidnapping incident involving the Israeli nationals and was assured of all help to trace the missing tourist.

Iran

Velayati Heads Delegation to France

NC0207074991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati left Tehran for Paris this morning at the head of a delegation. This visit comes after several rounds of talks between economic and political experts and seeks to solve financial differences between Iran and France.

During this visit, Mr. Velayati will meet with France's high-ranking officials, and the foreign ministers of the two countries will sign the final agreement on solving the financial differences between Iran and France.

Khamene'i, President at 'Id Al-Ghadir Meeting

LD0107163291 Tehran IRNA in English 1239 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Tehran, 1 July, IRNA—The Islamic revolution and system of government has challenged the current political culture among the world powers and subjected the pillars of their power to a public offensive, said Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i today.

The leader of the Islamic Republic made the remarks in a meeting with a group of officials who called on him on the occasion of 'Id al-Ghadir, a great Islamic feast when prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) appointed Imam 'Ali (PBUH) as his successor in a place called Ghadir-e Khom at that time.

Congratulating the world Muslims on the occasion, Ayatollah Khamene'i said elsewhere in his remarks that those who are administering the world affairs today are opposed to Islam and the Islamic revolution and system "because they do not find in themselves the materialisation of piety and disregard for lusts and worldly pomps."

Also speaking at the ceremony was President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani who termed the holding of the annual hajj rituals in Saudi Arabia by Iranian pilgrims this year as "another victory achieved under the wise guidelines of the great leader."

"(Our) presence in this year's hajj, contrary to the expectation of narrow-minded people, very well showed the dignity and honor of Islam and the revolution. The stances the Islamic Republic of Iran adopted towards the

Persian Gulf crisis, its kind treatment of a huge number of Iraqi refugees, and its paternal attitude towards the issues of the region proved that in Iran all the efforts are aimed at Islam," Rafsanjani said. [passage omitted]

President on Government Support for Judiciary

LD2706211791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Republic, opened the first gathering of judiciary officials from throughout the country this morning. In his remarks at this seminar, in which the head of the Judiciary, Mr. Yazdi, and judicial officials from throughout the country were present, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani paid tribute to martyr Ayatollah Dr. Beheshti and other 7 Tir martyrs. Referring to the importance of the judiciary he said: The order and stability of any society depends on the awareness and fairness of its judiciary. [passage omitted]

In another part of his remarks, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the country's stable and solid political, economic, and social situation. He said: Now a new phase has been initiated in our life; so all of us must make efforts to arrive at the desired perfection.

He stressed that government policy aims at making good the shortages being suffered by the judiciary. Funds allocated to the said establishment have been increased from 49 billion rials in 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] to 112 billion rials in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992]. Additionally, as many as 50 development projects related to the judicial establishment have been initiated this year; and partial welfare is also being provided for the judges. All these efforts point to the government's support for the Judiciary. Meanwhile, by enacting laws, the Majles places the necessary instruments and levers at the disposal of the judges. Also, the important bill on the establishment of common courts, now being debated by the Majles, can be the start of an important movement in the Judiciary. [passage omitted]

Supreme Security Council Holds Meeting

NC3006061891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani presided over a session of the Supreme National Security Council attended by council members, political advisers, and military commanders yesterday.

Cabinet Meeting on Steelworks, Border Points

LD0107121991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] At this afternoon's cabinet meeting, Foreign Minister Velayati gave a positive assessment of the staging of this year's hajj ceremonies in holy Mecca and said he hoped that the new trend in political ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia will contribute toward even more splendid stagings of hajj ceremonies in future years.

At this meeting, Mr. Rowghani-Zanjani, head of the Plan and Budget Organization, presented a report on the Mobarakeh iron-ore and steel mill plants in Esfahan and said that the process of commissioning and expanding the units of these two huge industrial plants is receiving attention and appreciation. He said that the foreign currency and rial needs of these two plants wil be secured by the time they become fully operational with an expansion and improvement in the quality of their varied products.

The Central News Unit reports that, in its meeting today, the cabinet approved the Sistan development organization's charter, a review of which began in previous sessions and in which a particular organizational structure has been envisaged for the management of that organization under the directorship of the Plan and Budget Organization.

At this meeting, several legal measures, including one marking Kish Airport and Kish ports as the exit border of the country on the basis of which Iranian nationals and foreign nationals can enter or leave that island in accordance with the regulations that will come into force. [previous sentence as received] The cabinet also approved entry into and departure from the country via the Mirjaveh border.

New Consulate To Open in Syria

LD2806154691 Tehran IRNA in English 1455 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Damascus, 28 June, IRNA—Iran will open a consulate in the city of Haleb (Aleppo), Syrian Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah agreed here today. The agreement was announced by Harbah in a meeting with Iranian Ambassador to Syria Mohammad Hasan Akhtari.

The two also exchanged views on the imminent visit of Iranian Interior Minister 'Abdollah Nuri to Syria.

Daily on Pan-Iranist Leader's Return to Iran

NC2306112891 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 8 Jun 91 p 3

[Unattributed commentary: "The Political Opposition's Shops Are Closing Down"]

[Text] The return of Mohsen Pezeshkpur to the country after his requests for forgiveness and amnesty were accepted has triggered different reactions in opposition circles outside the country.

Pezeshkpur, who lived in Iran until 1358 [1979], founded the Pan-Iranist Party in Iran and was Khorramshahr's Majles deputy for several sessions. After fleeing

Iran, he lived in France. His efforts outside the country, like those of other opposition groups, were pursued in an atmosphere charged with competition among opposition groups, plots by groups against each another, and disappointment, and he finally realized their ideas were futile and their deeds had lost their lustre. After many years he realized that the opposition groups' movements could be implemented only if they were compatible with those of international politicians and world powers.

Throughout the last two or three years, Mohsen Pezeshkpur sent letters to the country's high-ranking officials and asked for permission to return to Iran and serve the people and country.

Last week, when the news of Mohsen Pezeshkpur's return was published in KEYHAN HAVA'I, the opposition outside the country began to react.

Naturally they cannot ignore the return of one of their former colleagues and to agree with it.

The wave of opposition which rose among the counterrevolutionary groups outside the country after officials invited Iranian experts living in the United States and Europe to return occurred because they feared their political shops would be shut down. But their propaganda went ahead amidst the support from the Iranians for the return. But they will continue to work in foreign countries, because no foreign government supports political shops that do not have customers.

The return of Mohsen Pezeshkpur and those like him greatly saddens the counterrevolutionaries, and the return of such people actually places counterrevolution at a dead end and before defeat. Moreover, these returns end more than a decade of opposition propaganda that claims there is no security in Iran, that people's lives are in danger, and that Iran is no place in which to live.

Now, by asking for forgiveness and a free return, Pezeshkpur is walking in the streets of Tehran and resting comfortably in his house. If he wants to render his services, there are so many vast fields where he can do so that he wishes he could be reborn in order to make up for the past. Does the politically disarmed counterrevolution have anything else to say?

Paper Urges FRG To Complete Nuclear Plant

LD0207083391 Tehran IRNA in English 0703 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, 2 July, IRNA—The English daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in its editorial Tuesday wrote Bonn's effort to set up a joint work group to study the issue of the Bushehr nuclear plant in southern iran is a "positive signal".

Commenting on the two-day visit by German Economics Minister Juergen Moellemann to Tehran which ended yesterday, the daily said that the trip was viewed by many observers as a "turning point in Iran-Germany bilateral relations."

Underlining that "Germany has always had excellent political and economic ties with Iran," it said, "for many years Germany has been Iran's ranking trade partner."

The daily however added that "it seems Germany's negation on its commitment to complete Bushehr nuclear power plant would seriously hamper further progress in bilateral ties between the two countries."

Construction of the plant came to a halt during the Iraq-Iran war due to the German government's refusal to issue permission for shipment of spare parts to Iran but promised to resume work on the plant and complete the project right after the cessation of the hostilities.

"It will be in the best interest of Iran and Germany, if Bonn helps Tehran to complete the half-built Bushehr nuclear plant which had so far caused Iran some dlrs. 10 billion in losses due to refusal of the German contractor to complete the project," the editorial concluded.

FRG's Moellemann Departs Tehran 1 Jul

LD0107112391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Mr. Moelleman, the German economic affairs minister who visited Iran at the head of a high-ranking economic delegation in order to take part in the first session of the joint Iranian-German commission, left Tehran this morning. Mr. Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance, saw him off. [passage omitted]

Iran Protests Iraqi Cease-Fire Violations

LD2906095591 Tehran IRNA in English 0747 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] United Nations, New York, 29 June, IRNA—Iran Friday reiterated that sailing of the Iraqi boats in Arvand River [Shatt al-'Arab] without an advance notice is "in violation of the cease-fire regulations and the agreement reached between the two countries in Tehran."

Upon insistence of the Iraqi Government calling for increased movement of the two countries' boats in Arvand River, Iran and Iraq signed an agreement in Tehran on 6 January 1991, under the supervision of the representative of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG).

According to the agreement, because of the Persian Gulf crisis, boats of the two countries would sail in the waterway with an advance notice.

Iran's Permanent Representative to the UN Kamal Kharrazi Friday forwarded a note of the Iranian Foreign Ministry sent to the Iraqi Embassy in Tehran, together with his letter to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

In his letter Kharrazi wrote that everyday some 125 Iraqi boats sail in Arvand River waters with no advance notice

and fish in areas which belong to both countries, opposite the Iranian cities of Khorramshahr and Abadan.

The letter stressed that based on a treaty and within the framework of joint sovereignty over Arvand River waters, the two countries could agree on the date to start navigation in the waterway.

It underlined Iran's readiness to cooperate with Iraq to make the necessary decisions and open a joint office for cooperation in this connection.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi ambassador to the UN sent a strongly-worded letter to Perez de Cuellar in which Iran was allegedly accused of interfering in Iraq's internal affairs and insisting on exporting its Islamic revolution to that country.

UN Action Urged To Remove Iraqi 'Threats'

LD2806214191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1830 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] International experts commissioned by the UN to identify nuclear centers in Iraq inspected numerous Iraqi nuclear installations on Thursday. This team will put an end to its mission on Sunday. According to a UN Security Council decision, following the Persian Gulf war, Iraq must identify all its nuclear centers or arsenals of chemical and long-range missiles and must destroy them under UN supervision. Although Iraq has accepted the UN Security Council resolution on this issue, it is trying to prevent the identification of its nuclear centers or other banned weapons by creating obstructions.

The Iraqi Government has tried hard to prevent international experts from arriving in Iraq, an act which has met with strong protest from the UN Security Council. Iraq's record measures [words indistinct] preserving nuclear centers have provoked doubt and pessimism by various governments toward the rulers in Baghdad and have exposed them to various accusations.

Political observers in the region believe that in view of the inhuman measures taken by the rulers in Baghdad against the Iraqi nation, the UN should take necessary measures to disarm the Iraqi Government as soon as possible. The Ba'thist Iraqi regime's record showing deployment of chemical weapons against Iraqi Kurds clearly show that regime's incompetence for having [word indistinct] weapons. In the meantime, because of the Baghdad rulers' spirit of aggression, which was revealed with its invasion of Iran in 1981 and the occupation of Kuwait in 1990, Iraq's neighbors find themselves exposed to the Ba'thist Iraqi regime's potential threats. Hence the UN should act decisively to remove these threats.

Contrary to its claim, saying that the aim of collecting [word indistinct] weapons was to counter the aims of Arabs and Muslims, the Ba'thist Iraqi regime has practically shown that what is important to it is the survival of the Ba'thist regime, nothing else. The UN must also know that just disarming Iraq is not enough for the establishment of peace and security in the Middle East. [Word indistinct] it has the duty to pressure other tension-creating factors, [words indistinct] to be disarmed. [Words indistinct] as long as such anti-people regimes as the Ba'thist Iraqi regime and the Zionist regime of Israel continue their wayward measures to ensure their interests, the establishment of a stable situation in the region will be unlikely.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Greets Comoros President

LD3006073391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Excerpts] The president of Comoros, Mr. Said Mohamed Djohar, arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of a high-ranking political and economic delegation for a four-day official visit. He was officially welcomed by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. [passage omitted]

On this visit, Mr. Said Mohamed Djohar is accompanied by the ministers of foreign affairs, finance and budget, culture, youth and sport. Upon his arrival, in an exclusive interview with the voice and vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the president expressed his pleasure at embarking on this visit and thanked Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani for his invitation. He said: We now have ties with many states in the world, but this is the first visit that has been undertaken at such a level. He added: I am interested to see our friends in Iran because we are religious like the Iranians and hence there is much common ground between us. Our people are 100 percent Muslim, and this will be an opportunity for us to get to know our fellow Muslims better and assess the existing conditions for the extension of political, economic, and commercial ties.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said after referring to the Islamic nature of the Comoros people: In our foreign relations, we give priority to Islamic states, especially the third world, the deprived and held-back states. We are glad that from the political and other points of view, Muslims across the world pay attention to Islamic Iran. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: In our foreign relations, African states, especially Muslim ones, are held to be of special importance and we hope to utilize this visit to improve cooperation between Islamic and non-aligned states.

Holds Talks

LD3006101991 Tehran IRNA in English 0941 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Tehran, 30 June, IRNA—The first round of talks between President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and President Mohamed Djohar of Comoros started here Sunday before Djohar left for the holy city of Mashhad.

President Djohar lauded Iran's firm stand in the region and in the international arena and requested Iran to assist Comoros.

Expressing satisfaction with restoration of peace in the Persian Gulf region, he called for the return of Palestinians to their homeland.

President Rafsanjani announced Iran's readiness to train technical and specialized manpower for Comoros and the establishment of an air link between Iran and Africa.

He also expressed hope that the Construction Jihad Ministry will help the people of Comoros to make full use of their natural resources.

President Djohar invited his Iranian counterpart to visit Comoros, which was accepted.

President Djohar presented a title deed for a 7000-meter plot of land as a gift for building of the Iranian embassy in Moroni. Present at the meeting were a number of ranking officials, including the ministers of foreign affairs, finance, culture, youth and sports of Comoros and the ministers of foreign affairs and reconstruction jihad of Iran.

President Djohar, heading a high-ranking delegation, arrived here Saturday for a four-day official visit.

Radio Comments on Algerian FIS Arrests

LD0107211591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1830 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The arrest of Abbasi Madani who heads Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] and Ali Belhadj, number two man of the front, has met with various responses among the world's political circles and personalities. Algerian television confirmed the arrest of these two last night. [passage indistinct] The news of the arrest of the number one and number two men of Algeria's FIS and charges of armed conspiracy against the country's security have been confirmed. And the military officials of Algeria pretend that these two were responsible for the recent unrest there. Reports reaching here from Algeria, however, indicate that despite the arrest of these two figures scattered incidents of heavy shooting have been heard. In this regard, observers believe that if the Algerian arrests continue following the arrests of these two figures, the charges levelled against them concerning the conspiracy against the country's security would become baseless.

During these [words indistinct] the trend of events in Algeria has proved that Algerian state officials are well aware of some of the vast dimensions of popular protest. The government's move toward a multiparty system and the [words indistinct] of the National Liberation Front [FLN] of Algeria, the establishment of Sid Ahmad Ghozali's cabinet and furthermore, the resignation of Chadli Bendjedid from the leadership of the FLN are all signs of this. Therefore, restricting responsibility for recent events to the two arrested figures would be of no use to the Algerian Government.

Observers consider the Algerian Government's recent moves to be a continuation of former posturings by the government, proving that governments always move in a circle in the face of the popular mood. And this tension may reach a turning point sooner or later. It is after this stage that some results are achieved. Finally, if the Algerian people and government remain vigilant, the results will be in the interests of both, and in fact, in the interest of Algeria's sovereignty and independence.

Need for Public Participation in Government Viewed

NC2406122191 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 15 Jun 91 pp 1, 16

[Editorial by Ahmad Tavakkoli: "The Determination and Presence of the People"]

[Excerpts] In a message to the employees of the Islamic government, the dear leader of the revolution warned against contracting the same maladies as those of the previous idolatrous system. One of these maladies they were warned about was "distancing themselves from the people and not attaching importance to their needs, wishes, determination, and presence." [passage omitted]

Because of its Islamic bias, our revolution is synonymous with a struggle against enemies and tyranny in the world. This path, with its numerous vicissitudes, cannot be traversed without the people's support. Everyone is aware that whatever has been accomplished so far has been with the efforts of the people, who knowingly accepted the path of resistance under the auspices of divine leadership. Such cooperation with the leadership is not possible without complete awareness. [passage omitted]

Two burning topics during the last few days, for example, have taken up the time and energy of most of the people and officials.

The issue of foreign borrowing is a sensitive one, and the most minor development in this regard should be put before the public for the sake of national interests. The officials, however, should refrain from placing such information before people while at the same time giving false reasons. For example, since the month of Shahrivar 1369 [23 August 1991] until now, at least four groups of experts from the World Bank and the IMF have visited Iran, on the invitation of the Economic Affairs and Finance Ministry. However, no reports have been disseminated on these visits. (Footnote: The publication "Petro-Strategies" of 22 April 1991 reports on the oil market, and it is interesting to note that all the news about Iran's oil is published in this Petroleum Ministry publication, citing international sources!)

Thus, when foreign radio networks or internal elements with ulterior political motives term this contact with the

World Bank and the IMF as the focus of their propaganda on the dependence of our system, why should we expect the people not to believe it and become sceptical and disillusioned? [passage omitted]

Regarding the use of foreign credit in the form of joint investment or the establishment of free zones, the same problem exists. For example, based on Majles pproval, the government decided to transform the Qeshm island into a free industrial and commercial zone. The preliminary documents also were drafted, and practical measures, as well as the formulation of agreements, were initiated. Commercial activities also were begun, but the slightest piece of news regarding this was not disseminated.

The result of this was that some sensationalists got the opportunity to spread rumors that the government has sold Qeshm island to foreigners. (Footnote: A newly-published newspaper carried the front page headline "Qeshm Island Leased to Foreigners" and published a speech by Mr. Mohtashami on 10 June in the Majles, labelling it the exposure of shattering facts. It may be mentioned that the majority of the esteemed Majles deputies had rejected these people's suggestions to prevent the work on Qeshm island, but this was not noted in the mentioned newspaper.)

Do the officials not have the responsibility to inform the people of their decisions and actions in a timely manner so they may use the people's views as feedback and not give their opponents ammunition?

The Iranian permanent representative in the United Nations invited the Iranian specialists and the wealthy to a hotel, and the minister of economic affairs and finance and the Central Bank governor also made speeches there regarding the scope for our compatriots to work within the framework of the system. Such measures have taken place before in other forms, but reports about them were neither disseminated by the Foreign Ministry nor by the Economic Affairs and Finance Ministry. The people only heard about it from the BBC from the tongues of Khayyami and Lajevardi, wealthy people who had absconded during the Shah's era, who presented the report in a manner that pleased them and which was similar to the manner in which the internal unscrupulous political elements glean such information.

Later on, in a defensive posture, it was stated that our UN envoy had invited about 300 people, but 500 came voluntarily to the meeting and the minister of economic affairs and finance had not invited anyone by name. Even our UN envoy later stated that Iran is not spreading out the red carpet for the return of anyone in particular. Is it not more constructive for eliciting the people's support and forging ahead if the facts are presented with magnanimity and initiative, rather than by assuming reactive postures to defend the government officials against attacks and accusations by opponents?

Japanese Television Executive Arrives for Visit

NC0207065391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Mr. Shima, director of Japan's LHK television as heard, arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of a delegation and at the invitation of the director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran [VVIRI]. He was welcomed by VVIRI Director Mr. Mohammad Hashemi. During this visit, ways for bilateral television cooperation will be discussed.

Nepal

National Assembly Chairman Unanimously Elected

BK3006094691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0944 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Kathmandu, June 30 (AFP)—Nepali Congress member Beni Bahadur Karki was unanimously elected chairman of the National Assembly, Parliament's Upper House, on Sunday in a unanimous vote, a parliamentary official said.

Mr. Karki, 62, ran for the post unopposed, the official said.

The chairman-elect spent 19 years in exile in India following the dissolution of the country's short-lived first parliamentary system of government three decades ago.

He was sentenced to 57 years' imprisonment in absentia for alleged involvement in a number of anti-state activities during the early period of the panchayat [parliamentary] system that lasted from 1960 to last year, a Nepali Congress Party source said.

King Birendra was to administer the oath of office later to Mr. Karki at a special function at the Narayan Hity Royal Palace in the presence of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and other top officials, the parliamentary official said.

Meanwhile, the ruling Nepali Congress has nominated Mahanta Thakur as deputy to Speaker Daman Dhungana of the Lower House of Representatives, to be elected Sunday also, the parliamentary official said.

In what observers said betrayed a split among left-wing members of the chamber, the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) (NCP (UML] and the United People's Front have nominated separate candidates for the deputy speaker's post.

The NCP (UML), the main political opposition party with a total strength of 69 seats in the house, nominated Salim Miya Ansari, a choice rejected by the splinter Nepal Communist Party (Democratic).

Meanwhile the United People's Front endorsed Dilli Bahadur Mahat, who had been nominated for deputy speaker by the Nepal Workers' and Peasants' Party.

The partyless panchayat system was abolished in April last year after weeks of unrest, and the Nepali Congress won a majority last month in the kingdom's first multi-party elections since 1959.

King: Ties With India, China To Be Improved

BK0107172391 Hong Kong AFP in English 1451 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] Kathmandu, July 1 (AFP)—Nepal's King Birendra announced in a joint session of parliament Monday that the newly elected government would boost ties with its immediate neighbours India and China.

In a 30-minute speech the king, acting in his capacity as the country's first constitutional monarch, also outlined the government's other foreign and domestic policies.

"Nepal will consolidate the strong bonds of friendship and mutual trust with her neighbours, India and China," he said, adding it would also "continue the policy of maintaining regional cooperation and understanding between the countries of South Asia."

Nepal would also play "an effective role at the United Nations" on questions of conventional arms control, "saving mankind from the scourge of nuclear weapons, seeking peaceful settlement of all international disputes and preserving fundamental human rights," the king told parliament.

Nepal's army would also be placed at the disposal of the U.N. for peacekeeping missions.

He also expressed his government's gratitude to all donor countries for their cooperation in helping Nepal with its economic development.

King Birendra also announced the decentralization of the administration to provide a more efficient public service and help develop the country's physical infrastructure.

The government would also set up a pay commission to report on civil servants' pay scales.

Political observers here said the formation of a pay commission was significant in view of the threat by a section of the leftwing- backed Nepal Civil Service Organization to launch a campaign of non- cooperation over a pay dispute unless action was taken by Monday.

On industry, the king said Nepal would give priority to agriculture-based, labour intensive and indigenous industries and encourage those which were export oriented [Word Indistinct] reduce imports.

Foreign investment would also be encouraged and the government would promote the private sector.

He also mentioned the government's commitment to a free press.

Native Drukpa-Ethnic Nepali Tension Worsens

BK2806044691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0351 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Report by Marie-France Rouze]

[Text] New Delhi, June 28 (AFP)—The tranquility of the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan has been broken by assassinations, attempted murders and kidnappings that are threatening the survival of the tiny nation as it tries to preserve its traditional way of life.

According to the official press and Bhutanese diplomats, in the past year the south of the country has been the site of some 23 assassinations, 170 kidnappings, dozens of attacks on security forces and "countless" incidents of extortion and banditry that are blamed on "terrorists" of Nepali origin.

Travellers arriving from Bhutan, an isolated Buddhist nation, have confirmed that the situation has deteriorated in recent months.

According to them, the ruling Drukpa community, disturbed by the problems in the south and the official accusations of terrorism against Nepali "anti-nationals," wants to assimilate the Nepalis into the community.

According to some travellers, the division between the Drukpa and the Bhutanese of Nepali origin, who are Hindu and are in the majority in the south, could turn into a civil war.

The risk of this has increased since the government began last year to arm civilian militias so they could protect themselves against the "Ngolops," or "anti-nationals."

The capital Thimpu has been hit by the defection of 10 senior officials of Nepali origin to Nepal where they charged Bhutan's young king, Jigme Singye Wangchuk, with discrimination against their community and human rights violations.

Among those who fled were Bhim Subba, whom the king had just named to head the important power department, and Mandoj Tamang, deputy director of the planning commission, whose senior positions show that some Nepali Bhutanese have reached the highest levels of Drukpa society.

The government accused the defectors of embezzling money and fleeing the country with cars and other goods that had not been paid for, but Mr. Bhim Subba denied the allegations in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in Kathmandu.

He said he fled the country to protest measures to limit the number of Bhutanese of Nepali origin and counter-terrorism measures that include forcing parents to get a "non-objection certificate" from the police to register their children in schools and for farmers to sell their produce.

The measures are necessary to ensure that families or farmers are not linked to the "terrorists" or shielding people illegally in the country, explained a Bhutanese diplomat in India, one of the few countries with which it maintains diplomatic relations.

But experts on Bhutanese society have said the certificates are in fact very difficult to obtain. Nearly all Bhutanese of Nepali origin who are parents are unable to obtain the certificates because of their irregular situation, which has come about because of the permeable frontiers, the lack of birth registration and the number of foreigners attracted to the country by an abundance of land and opportunities.

Life for the 600,000 residents of the mountainous country is hard but food is available and there is little of the extreme poverty found in neighbouring Nepal.

Bhutan's current problems began in the early 1980s when the king and his advisors, troubled by the growth of the nepali community, ordered a census, expelled those residing illegally in the country and imposed Drukpa clothing and conduct regulations on the entire population.

The expulsions led to the violence in the south of country and accusations of violations of human rights.

In Kathmandu, Mr. Bhim Subba said he left Bhutan because as a "senior official," he felt it "highly immoral" to serve a government that was persecuting people of Nepali origin.

"It is amply clear that the royal Bhutanese Government had never seen this issue as being one between dissidents and the government but one between the government and all the people of Nepali ethnic origin," he said.

Nepali Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala has said the Bhutanese dissidents can stay in Nepal and that the country supports their "fight for democracy and their political rights."

Experts on Bhutan say the root of the problem is the difficulty of the almost medieval society of the Drukpas, culturally and religiously closer to Tibetans than their Hindu neighbours, to comprehend other peoples and civilisations. "It's nobody's fault, it's a tragedy," one expert said.

The Bhutanese have attacked the expansionism of tribes of Nepali origin. A diplomat in Delhi recalled that in 1975 the tiny Himalayan kingdom of Sikkim gave up its independence and incorporated with India under pressure from the Nepali majority.

They also remind people that some Gurkhas, a Nepal tribe that united the country in the 18th century, have said they want to create a Gurkha state including Sikkim, the region of Darjeeling in India and the southern part of Bhutan.

Pakistan

Kashmir Prime Minister Rejects Election Results

BK0107155091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1518 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] Islamabad, July 1 (AFP)—The prime minister of Pakistan-administered Kashmir, Mumtaz Rathore, Monday rejected as unacceptable the results of elections to the state's legislative assembly which were marred by violence.

"Elections were rigged in collaboration with the administration officials," and his party voters were prevented from casting their ballots, he told a press conference here.

Mr. Rathore, who dissolved the assembly on March 31 after losing his majority, heads the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) of dismissed prime minister Benazir Bhutto in the northern state known as Azad (free) Kashmir.

The PPP were routed in Saturday's elections capturing only two seats in the 40-seat assembly.

Its rival the All Jammu and Kasmir Muslim Conference (AJKMC), led by the territory's president Sardar Abdul Qayyum, swept the elections bagging 32 seats.

Mr. Rathore said his party would not accept the results as elections were not held "judiciously."

The AJKMC of rightwing Moslem conservatives, was backed by the ruling party in Islamabad.

Mr. Rathore said he had told Mr. Qayyum, who met him Sunday, that the outcome was "not acceptable to him in any case."

Offering to also surrender the party's two seats, Mr. Rathore said he was examining the possibility of declaring the elections null and void.

While the state's chief executive, he said "top officials were not under my control," but added he would soon take "disciplinary action" against them. [as received]

Mr. Qayyum, rejecting the charge countered that Mr. Rathore had come to power through rigged polls in May last year bolstered by Ms. Bhutto. His party was "bound to fall once that crutch was no longer there."

The PPP was rejected in Pakistan and "since it had nothing to sell in Kashmir, the people of Kashmir have also rejected it," he said.

He said his party was still ready to accept the PPP challenege for fresh elections to any seat.

A spokesman for the election commission said polling suspended in four constituencies would be held on July 6, but he said under the state's constitution the prime minister could not declare the entire election void.

New Azad Kashmir Government To Be Installed

BK0107153691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] Azad Kashmir President Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan has said the new government in Azad Kashmir will be installed within this month. Talking to ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN in Islamabad today, he said the enforcement of the Islamic system, the freedom movement in the Indian occupied Kashmir, and reforms in various fields will be among the priorities of the new government.

Answering a question, he said a government which performs well is needed in view of the challenges facing Azad Kashmir. He dismissed allegations from certain quarters about irregularities in the elections.

Cabinet Meets To Discuss Law, Order Situation

BK0107161091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] A special meeting of Federal Cabinet was held in Islamabad today to consider measures to improve the law and order situation in the country. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif presided over the meeting which was attended by the federal ministers, chief ministers of all four provinces and senior officials connected with the national security.

Meanwhile, the government has directed all those who own illegal weapons to deposit them at the nearest police station by 15 July. An announcement in Islamabad says anyone found with illegal weapons after this deadline will be liable for life imprisonment and confiscation of property.

Cabinet Says 'Conspiracy' Root of Troubles

BK0107165791 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] The Federal Cabinet has taken a number of decisions to improve the law and order situation in the country. The cabinet at its emergency meeting held in Islamabad this afternoon decided to set up crime vigilant committees throughout the country and directed agencies concerned to keep a close watch on the borders, reorganize the police, and transfer corrupt police officials. The meeting, lasting about five hours, was chaired by the prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, and attended by federal ministers, four provincial chief ministers, and heads of various agencies.

It was decided that Al-Zulfiqar members convicted by courts and later released will be arrested again.

All illegal arms are to be deposited with district magistrates, assistant commissioners and nearby police stations. The prime minister also directed provincial governments and police to devise a strategy to recover such arms after the fixed dates.

The cabinet described the present [crime] wave as a conspiracy against the country and the stable democratically elected government in which foreign and internal elements are involved. The cabinet decided to eliminate all such elements with a firm hand and mete out severe punishment to them.

The cabinet directed the provinces to reorganize the police on modern lines and provide them with modern weapons and transport.

Briefing newsmen on the decisions of the cabinet at a news conference in Islamabad, the adviser on information and broadcasting, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, said agencies concerned have been directed to put a close watch on the borders to check entry of enemy agents and saboteurs. All agencies have been directed to hold a joint meeting every three days to take stock of the situation. He said the prime minister will also preside over a meeting every week to review the security and law and order situation. He said the prime minister has clearly told the agencies and the provincial governments that he wanted to eliminate crime once and for all.

Reportage on German Deputy Defense Minister Visit

Minister Arrives For Visit, Talks

BK2906031891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] German deputy defense minister Willy Wimmer arrived in Rawalpindi yesterday on a five-day visit to Pakistan. It is expected that during his visit he will meet with the Senate chairman, the National Assembly speaker, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff committee, and three service chiefs.

German Minister To Discuss Nuclear Issue

BK2906162991 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Scope of further promoting bilateral cooperation and major problems confronting the region were discussed at a meeting between Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad and German deputy defense minister Willy Wimmer in Islamabad today. The Senate chairman told the German guest that Pakistan has always supported nuclear nonproliferation and it is ready to accept any proposal which is not discriminatory and acceptable to other countries of the region as well. He said that Pakistan is engaged in a peaceful nuclear program as it is deficient in conventional sources of energy. Wasim Sajjad informed the German minister of the large-scale violation of human rights and atrocities in occupied Kashmir and stressed that the international community should pressure India so that a solution to the Kashmir issue can be sought through peaceful negotiations in accordance with UN resolutions.

Willy Wimmer, the first minister to visit Pakistan after the German reunification, told the Senate chairman that Germany is keenly interested in continuing cooperation

with Pakistan, especially in economic field. He said Germany is concerned about the situation in the occupied Kashmir and his country believes that the Kashmir issue should be settled through purposeful and peaceful negotiations. He also shared Wasim Sajjad's viewpoint that a peaceful situation should be restored in Afghanistan and a government, acceptable to Afghans both inside and outside the country, should be established there.

Assembly Speaker, Minister Hold Talks

BK0107064891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] National Assembly speaker Gauhar Ayub Khan and German deputy defense minister Willy Wimmer exchanged views on regional and international issues, especially the Kashmir issue and recent changes in East Europe, in Islamabad yesterday. The speaker apprised the German guest of the existing freedom movement in occupied Kashmir and informed him of the political, historical, social and cultural background of the Kashmir issue. He said that the world community should take steps to check atrocities by Indian forces in the occupied territory. The speaker also said that Pakistan has no controversy with India except the Kashmir issue, and peace and security can be made inevitable in the region by resolving this issue in accordance with the UN resolutions. Gauhar Ayub Khan said that Pakistan abides by a peaceful nuclear program as it is needed to overcome an electricity shortage in the country. The German minister said his country and Pakistan have identical views on regional issues like Kashmir and the Afghan problems. He said if these problems are solved peacefully it will be in the best interest of the people of the region.

Sharif, Japan's Kaifu Discuss Canceled Visit

BK0107161891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif today telephoned his Japanese counterpart Toshiki Kaifu to convey his regrets at the postponement of his visit to Japan. Nawaz Sharif apprised the Japanese prime minister of the circumstances that had necessitated his presence in Pakistan at the present juncture. During the conversation marked by warmth and cordiality, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif informed Kaifu that he attaches the utmost importance to Pakistan's relations with Japan and that the Pakistani people have great respect for the Japanese people.

The two prime ministers agreed that a mutually convenient date for the Pakistan prime minister's Japan visit will be decided through consultations between the two governments.

Sri Lanka

Government Says VOA Station Not To Harm India

BK0107160591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1547 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] New Delhi, July 1 (AFP)—Sri Lanka has assured India that a proposed Voice of America (VOA) broadcasting station in the island's west coast will not be used to harm Indian interests, a government spokesman said here Monday.

The External Affairs Ministry spokesman said Colombo extended the assurance to Indian Foreign Secretary Muchkund Dubey during a stopover visit on his way to the atoll nation of the Maldives last week.

Colombo has also agreed to present all details of the VOA project to India, he said.

The official said the Sri Lankan authorities had reiterated the assurance to Mr. N.N. Jha, India's high commissioner to Sri Lanka, during a meeting also held last week.

"The Sri Lankan authorities gave full assurance to Mr. Jha that the VOA project would not be in anyway be inimical to Indian interests," the spokesman said.

The official statement came a day after Mr. Jha expressed grave concern in Colombo over its green light to the American broadcasters to set up a station in Chilaw, on the country's western coast.

The VOA already has one station in Sri Lanka, and New Delhi in the past has sought assurance from the Colombo government that it would not be used for military or espionage purposes.

LTTE Area Leader, 6 Others Killed

BK3006112291 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Seven LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists were killed in Northern Sri Lanka on Friday [28 June]. Five LTTE terrorists, including an area leader, were killed by the security forces at Vavuniya. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the LTTE attacked a group of [word indistinct] members, killing one and wounded one. Government troops at a nearby checkpoint had taken on a group of LTTE terrorists, killing five of them, including Parson, an area leader. The driver and cleaner of a lorry transporting a consignment of batteries and petrol northward from Vavuniya abandoned their vehicle and ran into a jungle at the security forces checkpoint at Vavuniya. Two LTTE cadres were killed in an encounter which followed an LTTE attack on a security forces patrol at (Nadakuda Mannar) in the northwest.

Administration Established in Karainagar

BK2906113291 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Civilian life and administration have been established in the Karainagar island even before two months passed after driving out the terrorists from the island [sentence as heard]. The Sri Lanka Navy is fully engaged in this task. The civilian committee is helping in this work. The commander in charge of the northern division, Captain H.R. Amaraveera, and the chief commanding officer of the (Elara) camp, Commodore Parakrama Wijeratne, are engaged in this operation. The Navy is providing the necessary food to the people. They are being given rice, flour, sugar, dal [lintels], green gram, (?crust) and bread. They are also being provided with health facilities. Forty children below 10 years of age are following classes at a primary school. These activities are being supervised by the Navy.

According to our correspondent fisheries activities are also normal. Transport is only by bicycles and motorcycles. The Navy provides fuel. The first retail outlet owned by a villager was opened on Tuesday at the Alladi junction. Our correspondent adds that religious activities are also normal. A pooja [worship] was held at the Amman [Hindu goddess] kovil [temple] on the 14th of this month after five years. Another deva [divine] pooja was held at the Sivan [Hindu god] kovil on the 18th of this month. With the help of the Navy, posts and telecommunication activities have also returned to normal.